

(F) ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR. - INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY) -- Information has been received that Welch resides at 43 Fletcher Road, Belmont, Massachusetts; maintains an office at 810 Main Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts; is an officer and director of the James O. Welch Company, candy manufacturers, 810 Main Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and is editor and a director of the publication "American Opinion," which he irregularly publishes and issues of which have in the past contained anticommunist articles. Neither Welch nor his publication has been the subject of Bureau investigation. In January, 1959, he met with a group of leading industrialists of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, area, at which time he lectured on communism, the urgent need for anticommunist action in the United States and his desires to establish ostensible communist front groups which in reality would be anticommunist groups. Welch indicated he is conducting a drive to obtain funds to be used for

3/10/59

SAC LETTER NO. 59-13

- 3 -

anticommunist activity and that his plans would necessitate large financial contributions. No further information has been received indicating Welch's success in putting his program into effect.

The personnel of your office should be made aware of Welch's activities and contemplated plans. You must be certain that your employees are alerted to promptly report to the Bureau any information concerning further activity by Welch in this regard. In the event information is received regarding any activity of Welch in the furtherance of setting his plan into operation, no investigation should be made but the Bureau should be promptly advised.

Callahan
ms Luck — *J. P. (advised)*
100-9991-1
100-60-119

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 11 1959	
FBI — RICHMOND	

1. 3/27/61 October, 1960, Bulletin of John Birch Society.
2. 2-11-63 Post Card- Photo of UN Bldg - NYC
captioned "The house that Hiss Built."
3. 5-27-63 Jan 1963 issue of "American Opinion"
& reprint of Congressional Record

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

100-9991-1A

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MAR 27 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

[Signature]

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DESCRIPTION:

Booklet

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FILE NO. 100-9991-1A1

DATE RECEIVED 3-24-61

FROM _____

(Name of Contributor)

Found on sidewalk near 7th + Main

(Address of Contributor)

Richmond, Va.

BY R. F. Brunner

(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes ()
No (X)

DESCRIPTION: October, 1960 Bulletin of
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

Belmont 78, Massachusetts

October 1, 1960

Bulletin For October

Copyright 1960 by the John
Birch Society, Incorporated

Foreword

For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound,
who shall prepare himself to the battle?
St. Paul, First Corinthians, XIV, 8

In the foreword of each of the last two bulletins we have felt that, while it might not be necessary, it was at least appropriate for us to deal at some length with various aspects of the first serious widespread attack to which the Society has been subjected. (And a forerunner of many more, of many kinds, we are sure.) So this month it is a pleasure to have a change of pace.

That change of pace will quickly become evident not only in subject matter but in treatment. There are several reasons for the increased assurance and positiveness with which these pages will be written.

(1) We have just had convincing proof, from the storm we have been through, that the loyalty of our members -- of almost all of our members -- is practically storm-proof. We can take for granted the kind of support that moves mountains; support that is undismayed by the size of the job ahead or the sniping of the enemy around us.

(2) From the flow of the Members' Monthly Messages we are now more thoroughly familiar, and shall continue to be familiar, with the total thinking of our membership, as very helpful background for our decisions at

Banking and business institutions, industrial corporations, trade associations and labor unions have found it increasingly difficult to employ economists that are not infected with the destructive and dangerous social philosophy of Keynesism. Some of them have been forced to train their own economists to insure the sound, productive, realistic and constructive thinking necessary for the operation and preservation of the private enterprise system.

Educational institutions that train our *economics* instructors, at the graduate level, have been for some thirty (30) years almost exclusively devoted to the Keynesian theory. Consequently this country is faced with the tragic fact that teachers of economics throughout the nation are predominantly Keynesian or Marxist. For years, these Keynesian professors have infected, yearly, several hundred students who in turn became instructors and indoctrinated thousands more. Thus the process snow-balls on.

Marxism-Keynesism in our academic institutions has thus far been winning by default. There has been a lack of factual exposure. Keynesians keep repeating, in their text books, the theme that their theories are

too deep and complex for the ordinary layman to understand. They lay exclusive claim to a profundity which builds a "Chinese Wall" around their dogmas. This is obviously done to discourage people outside their own inner circle from probing into their motives and intentions. The whole miasma of Keynesism is given the protective cover of "science."⁽¹⁵⁾

The Veritas Foundation is not overawed by such claims of omniscience on the part of a group of would-be-bosses over all of society.

The text books, treatises, lectures and articles of those who run the economics department at Harvard represent the backbone of the Keynesian forces in the United States.

With your help we can get the true facts before the American people. We will unmask the methods by which the Keynesian revolutionary virus is being injected; by degrees, into the life blood of our free society.

15. *The National Debt and The New Economics* by Seymour E. Harris. Chapter II.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF VERITAS FOUNDATION AS GIVEN IN ITS DECLARATION OF TRUST

To educate the officials, teaching staffs, governing bodies, under-graduates and graduates of American colleges and universities, upon the subject of communism, the international communist conspiracy and its methods of infiltration into the United States.

Box 340

New York 5, N. Y.

By permission of the Veritas Foundation, we have reproduced on these four pages the excellent folder recently issued by them. In the last paragraph they state: "With your help we can get the true facts before the American people." And we are sure that in the long run nobody will give them more help in this worthy endeavor than the members of The John Birch Society. RW

File No. 100-9995-1A

Date Received 1-30-63

From

F.C. Hammond High School
(Address of Contributor)
Alexandria Va.

By E T West.
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned

Yes ☐
No ☒

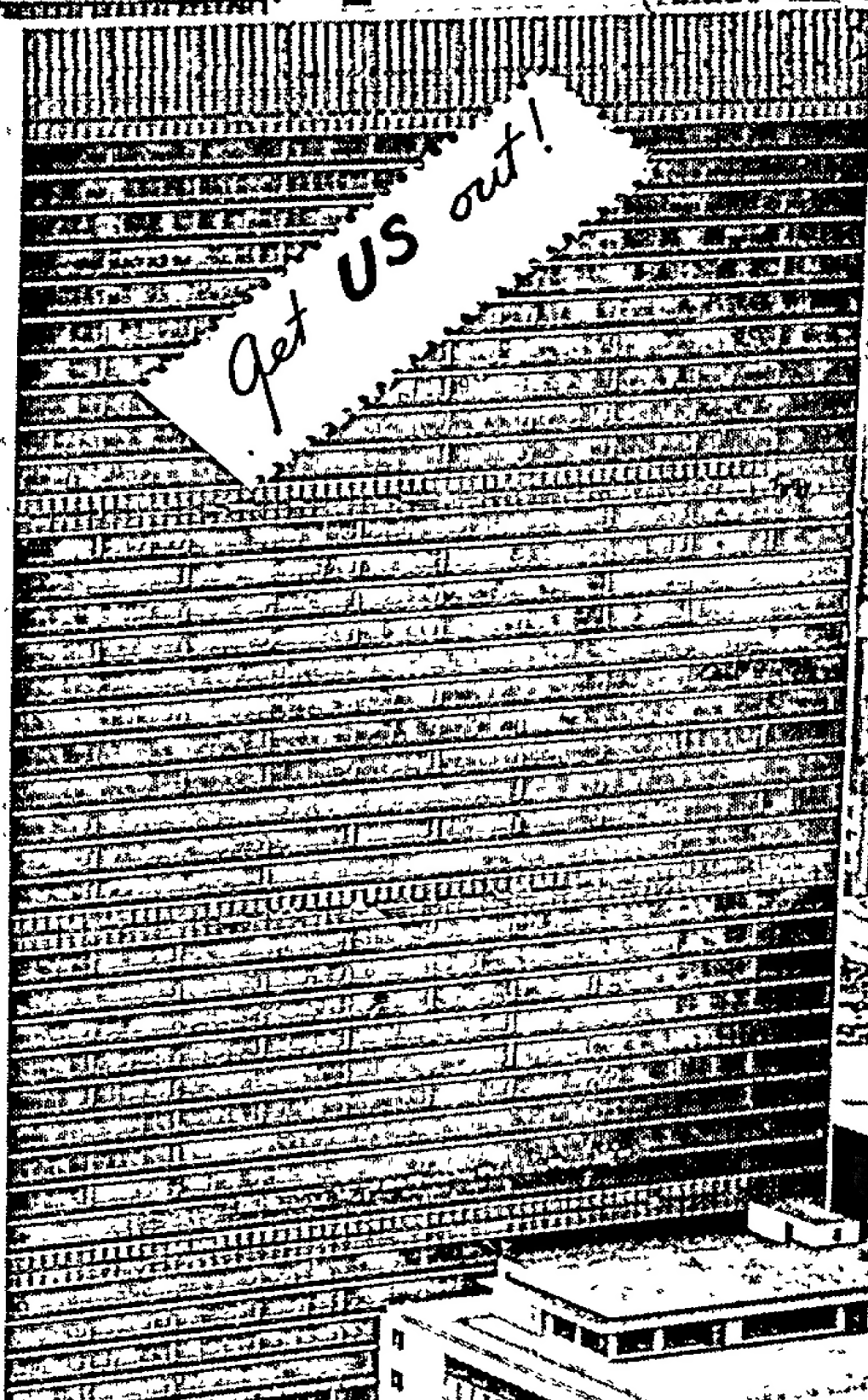
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Description:

Post card. Photo
of UN building, N.Y.C.
captioned
"The House that Wiss Built."

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The House That Hiss Built



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On December 10, 1961, the forty-six civilian doctors of Elizabethville, Katanga, sent the following telegram to UN Acting Secretary-General U Thant: "We regret your shameful lie that your mercenaries do not shoot at Red Cross vehicles. You will have a right to talk about such things when you have spent nights with us in our hospitals bombed by your faithless and lawless mercenaries."

By all means let's give Communist China a seat in the United Nations—our seat! And since we do not want the Red Chinese coming to New York, let's ask them to move UN headquarters to Peiping or Moscow where it really belongs. Get US out!

AMEN!

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Belmont 78, Massachusetts

These Cards will be supplied at 25 for \$1.00

UPI Photo

PRAY
FOR
PEACE



POST CARD

Hammond High School

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b7C

Alex.

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File No.

100-9991-1A3

Date Received

3/18/63

From

(Name of Contributor)

Hafayette Pharmacy
2400 S. Main St.

(Address of Contributor)

By

H. H. T. Owen

(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned

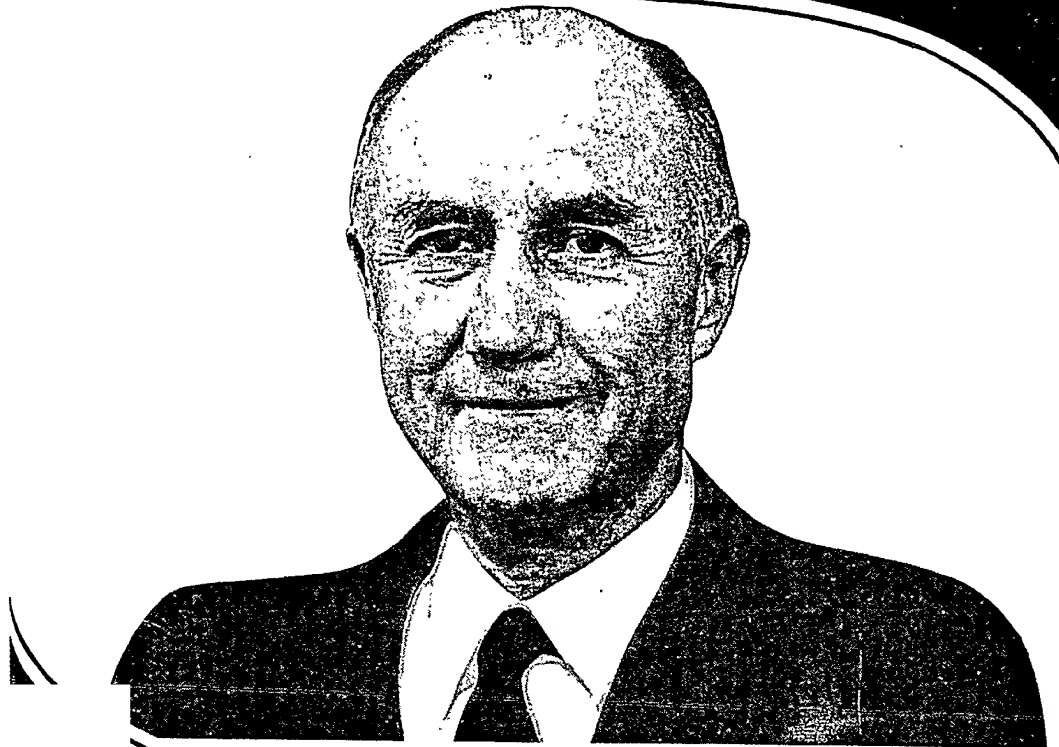
Yes ☐No ☒

Description:

Jan. 1963 issue of
"American Opinion"
Reprint of Congressional
Record excerpt.ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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AMERICAN OPINION

An Informal Review



Senator Strom Thurmond

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DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Featuring

CUBA

THE BLACK MUSLIMS

THIS IS WALTER REUTHER

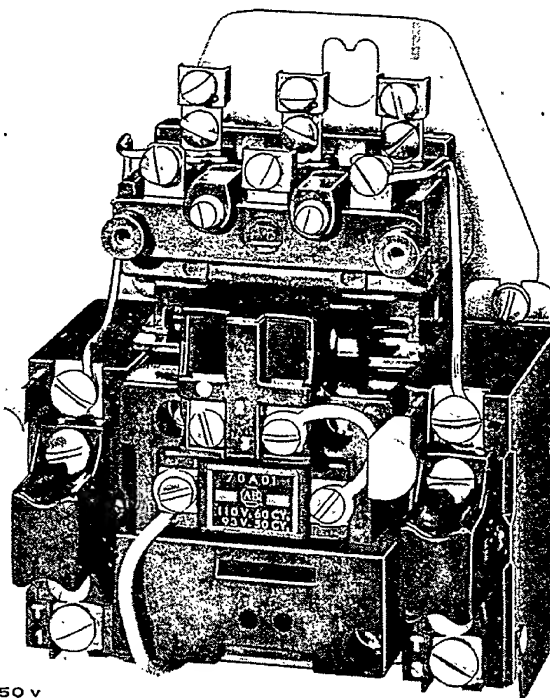
JANUARY

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1963



BULLETIN 709 SIZE 0
Across-the-Line Starter
Rated 3 hp, 220 v; 5 hp, 440-550 v



THESE SMALL MOTOR STARTERS SAVE YOU BIG MONEY

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more rugged, almost nothing can go wrong. Then there's the new coil that's protected against the worst possible atmospheres by an exclusive A-B pressure molding process . . . the hot molded arc hood that will handle the severest switching with ease . . . and the weld-resistant contacts that make service attention completely unnecessary. In addition, there's honest overload protection that's trip-free, as well as tamperproof.

If you'd like to know more about the "moneysaving" reliability of A-B's new Series K line of motor starters, please write for Publication 6100: Allen-Bradley Co., 1214 S. Third Street Milwaukee 4, Wis.

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United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 87th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Beliefs and Principles of the John Birch Society

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. JOHN H. ROUSSELOT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 1962

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues have questioned me concerning the beliefs and principles of the John Birch Society. For their benefit, under unanimous consent I insert those beliefs and principles in the Appendix of the Record.

GENERAL BELIEFS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

I

With very few exceptions the members of the John Birch Society are deeply religious people. A member's particular faith is entirely his own affair. Our hope is to make better Catholics, better Protestants, better Jews—or better Moslems—out of those who belong to the society. Our never-ending concern is with morality, integrity, and purpose. Regardless of the differences between us in creed and dogma, we all believe that man is endowed by a Divine Creator with an innate desire and conscious purpose to improve both his world and himself. We believe that the direction which constitutes improvement is clearly visible and identifiable throughout man's known history, and that this God-given upward reach in the heart of man is a composite conscience to which we all must listen.

II

We believe that the Communists seek to drive their slaves and themselves along exactly the opposite and downward direction, to the Satanic debasement of both man and his universe. We believe that communism is as utterly incompatible with all religion as it is contemptuous of all morality and destructive of all freedom. It is intrinsically evil. It must be opposed, therefore, with equal firmness, on religious grounds, moral grounds, and political grounds. We believe that the continued coexistence of communism and a Christian-style civilization on one planet is impossible. The struggle between them must end with one completely triumphant and the other completely destroyed. We intend to do our part, therefore, to halt, weaken, rout, and eventually to bury, the whole international Communist conspiracy.

III

We believe that means are as important as ends in any civilized society. Of all the falsehoods that have been so widely and deliberately circulated about us, none is so viciously untrue as the charge that we are willing to condone foul means for the sake

of achieving praiseworthy ends. We think that communism as a way of life, for instance, is completely wrong; but our ultimate quarrel with the Communists is that they insist on imposing that way of life on the rest of us by murder, treason, and cruelty rather than by persuasion. Even if our own use of force ever becomes necessary and morally acceptable because it is in self-defense, we must never lose sight of the legal, traditional, and humanitarian considerations of a compassionate civilization. The Communists recognize no such compulsions, but this very ingredient of amoral brutishness will help to destroy them in the end.

IV

We believe in patriotism. Most of us will gladly concede that a parliament of nations, designed for the purpose of increasing the freedom and ease with which individuals, ideals, and goods might cross national boundaries, would be desirable. And we hope that in some future decade we may help to bring about such a step of progress in man's pursuit of peace, prosperity, and happiness. But we feel that the present United Nations was designed by its founders for the exactly opposite purpose of increasing the rigidity of Government controls over the lives and affairs of individual men. We believe it has become, as it was intended to become, a major instrumentality for the establishment of a one-world Communist tyranny over the population of the whole earth. One of our most immediate objectives, therefore, is to get the United States out of the United Nations, and the United Nations out of the United States. We seek thus to save our own country from the gradual and piecemeal surrender of its sovereignty to this Communist-controlled supergovernment, and to stop giving our support to the steady enslavement of other people through the machinations of this Communist agency.

V

We believe that a constitutional Republic, such as our Founding Fathers gave us, is probably the best of all forms of government. We believe that a democracy, which they tried hard to obviate, and into which the liberals have been trying for 50 years to convert our Republic, is one of the worst of all forms of government. We call attention to the fact that up to 1928 the U.S. Army Training Manual still gave our men in uniform the following quite accurate definition, which would have been thoroughly approved by the Constitutional Convention that established our Republic. "Democracy: A Government of the masses. Authority derived through mass meeting or any form of direct expression: results in mobocracy. Attitude toward property is communistic—negating property rights. Attitude towards law is that the will of the majority shall regulate, whether it be based upon deliberation or governed by passion, prejudice, and impulse.

without restraint or regard to consequences. Results in demagogism, license, agitation, discontent, anarchy." It is because all history proves this to be true that we repeat so emphatically: "This is a Republic, not a democracy; let's keep it that way."

VI

We are opposed to collectivism as a political and economic system, even when it does not have the police-state features of communism. We are opposed to it no matter whether the collectivism be called socialism or the welfare state or the New Deal or the Fair Deal or the New Frontier, or advanced under some other semantic disguise. And we are opposed to it no matter what may be the framework or form of government under which collectivism is imposed. We believe that increasing the size of government, increasing the centralization of government, and increasing the functions of government all act as brakes on material progress and as destroyers of personal freedom.

VII

We believe that even where the size and functions of government are properly limited, as much of the power and duties of government as possible should be retained in the hands of as small governmental units as possible, as close to the people served by such units as possible. For the tendencies of any governing body to waste, expansion, and despotism all increase with the distance of that body from the people governed; the more closely any governing body can be kept under observation by those who pay its bills and provide its delegated authority, the more honestly responsible it will be. And the diffusion of governmental power and functions is one of the greatest safeguards against tyranny man has yet devised. For this reason it is extremely important in our case to keep our township, city, County and State governments from being bribed and coerced into coming under one direct chain of control from Washington.

VIII

We believe that for any people eternal vigilance is the price of liberty far more as against the insidious encroachment of internal tyranny than against the danger of subjugation from the outside or from the prospect of any sharp and decisive revolution. In a republic we must constantly seek to elect and to keep in power a government we can trust, manned by people we can trust, maintaining a currency we can trust, and working for purposes we can trust (none of which we have today). We think it is even more important for the government to obey the laws than for the people to do so. But for 30 years we have had a steady stream of governments which increasingly have regarded our laws and even our Constitution as mere pieces of paper, which should not be allowed to stand in the way of what they, in their omniscient benevolence, considered to

be "for the greatest good of the greatest number." (Or in their power-seeking plans pretended so to believe.) We want a restoration of a "government of laws, and not of men" in this country; and if a few impeachments are necessary to bring that about, then we are all for the impeachments.

IX

We believe that in a general way history repeats itself. For any combination of causes, similar to an earlier combination of causes, will lead as a rule to a combination of results somewhat similar to the one produced before. And history is simply a series of causes which produced results, and so on around cycles as clearly discernible as any of the dozens that take place elsewhere in the physical and biological sciences. But we believe that the most important history consists not of the repetitions but of the changes in these recurring links in the series. For the changes mark the extent to which man

has either been able to improve himself and his environment, or has allowed both to deteriorate, since the last time around. We think that this true history is largely determined by ambitious individuals (both good and evil) and by small minorities who really know what they want. And in the John Birch Society our sense of gratitude and responsibility (to God and to the noble men of the past), for what we have inherited makes us determined to exert our influence, labor, and sacrifice for changes which we think will constitute improvement.

X

In summary, we are striving, by all honorable means at our disposal and to the limits of our energies and abilities, to bring about less government, more responsibility, and a better world. Because the Communists seek, always and everywhere, to bring about more government, less individual responsibility, and a completely amoral world, we would have to oppose them at every turn, even on the philosophical level. Because

they are seeking through a gigantically organized conspiracy to destroy all opposition, we must fight them even more aggressively on the plane of action. But our struggle with the Communists, while the most urgent and important task before us today, is basically only incidental to our more important long-range and constructive purposes. For that very reason we are likely to be more effective against the Communists than if we were merely an ad hoc group seeking to expose and destroy so huge and powerful a gang of criminals. In organization, dedication, and purpose we offer a new form of opposition to the Communists which they have not faced in any other country. We have tried to raise a standard to which the wise and the honest can repair. We welcome all honorable allies in this present unceasing war. And we hope that once they and we and millions like us have won a decisive victory at last, many of these same allies will join us in our long look toward the future.

John Birch Society Investigated

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. JOHN H. ROUSSELOT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 1962

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, the Efficiency Research Bureau, a private investigating firm, has completed a thorough investigation of the John Birch Society in Orange County, Calif. Findings of the Bureau are reported in the March 1962, issue of the Santa Ana Register, a newspaper published in Orange County. I believe the findings will be of interest to my colleagues. Under unanimous consent I place the report which appeared in the Register in the Appendix of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The report follows:

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY INVESTIGATED

A private investigating firm, Efficiency Research Bureau, 800 South Harbor Boulevard, Anaheim, conducted a thorough investigation of the John Birch Society in Orange County, Calif. Efficiency Research Bureau was hired by the president of a local manufacturing firm to make an impartial study.

644926-84733

A five-man team of investigators, including a Negro clergyman, sat in on numerous Birch meetings and accumulated a wealth of data on the organization and its operation. The following are the 14 conclusions to which the investigating team came, based upon their extensive research:

1. Many of the allegations and rumors against the John Birch Society could not be supported by fact.
2. The John Birch Society is an anti-Communist movement open to anyone interested in joining or attending meetings.
3. It's not a secret organization, but rather groups meeting for discussion of views and ways in which to fight the international Communist conspiracy.
4. The majority of John Birch Society members don't support or agree with many of the statements of Robert Welch, the society's founder; they seldom disagree with him on policy.
5. Each chapter is independent and each member cooperates with chapter, State and national views according to the dictates of his own conscience.
6. Efficiency Research Bureau investigators attending these meetings have found groups as small as 15 and as large as 59 at a single meeting. About 15 seemed to be preferred.
7. All indications show that the John Birch Society anti-Communist movement is growing continuously and steadily.

8. Utilizing both white and colored investigators, it was learned the John Birch Society isn't anti-Semitic, anti-Negro, or anti any religious group. That they, in fact, have chapters comprised entirely of colored membership. Also, it was found John Birch Society has Jewish members on the national advisory council.

9. Investigators found no evidence of violence or unlawful activity engaged in by the John Birch Society.

10. Investigators did learn that there were individuals who carried personal prejudices with them into the organization. It was learned John Birch Society works to isolate persons with such prejudice. If a whole chapter is found to share certain prejudices the area coordinators try to disseminate such groups.

11. Investigators learned there is a John Birch Society major coordinator for Orange, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties and he has two coordinators directly under him.

12. Investigators expected to find a dictatorship and didn't find it.

13. The society as a whole works very hard to make sure that John Birch Society isn't used as a vehicle to promote prejudices.

14. Investigative work included checking out documented information by factfinding groups which is used as a basis for some John Birch Society work.

These sheets are available, in any quantity,
at one cent each. Order from
The John Birch Society, Belmont 78, Massachusetts

(C) ROBERT H. WELCH, JR. - INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY) -- SAC Letter 59-13 (F) dated March 10, 1959, set out background data concerning Welch, a candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, and his anticommunist campaign, Bufile 62-104401. Welch has written a manuscript entitled "The Politician," which is a vicious attack on the political life and beliefs of President Eisenhower. Welch has not published the manuscript but has had a limited number of copies printed which he has distributed or "loaned" to friends or individuals who he believed would be interested in its contents. The Bureau is in possession of a copy of it. Therefore, if the manuscript is offered to you for reproduction purposes, it will not be necessary to send copies to the Bureau.

Welch also created an organization in Indianapolis, Indiana, in December, 1958, called "The John Birch Society," the long-range objective of which has been summarized as "less government, more responsibility, and a better world." Chapters of this Society are coming into existence in various parts of the country. The Bureau has received several inquiries concerning the Society and is in possession of a copy of "The Blue Book," which sets forth information on the Society.

The above is furnished for information purposes. In the event a chapter of The John Birch Society is organized in your territory, the Bureau should be notified promptly and furnished a resume of the chapter's activities. The Bureau is particularly interested in any efforts by subversive elements to take over or use this Society or its chapters. No investigation should be conducted.

1/26/60
SAC LETTER NO. 60-5

Very truly yours,
John Edgar Hoover
Director

- 3 -

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100-50-719A

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FBI - BOSTON	

1/20/61

AIRTEL

REGISTERED MAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, RICHMOND (100-New)

ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.
INFORMATION CONCERNING
INTERNAL SECURITY

Re SAC Lets 59-13 and 60-5 instructing Bureau be promptly notified in event chapter of The John Birch Society organized within territory.

On late afternoon of 1/18/61 LON BACKMAN, News Reporter, Radio Station WRVA, Richmond, advised he has done several radio commentaries regarding Communism, as he is becoming extremely concerned concerning Communist menace. He has received unusually heavy response and requests to address various groups on subject of Communism as a result. He has read Masters of Deceit and has received some public source material by corresponding with Bureau. He stated that in doing research he has become acquainted with T. COLEMAN ANDREWS, JR., who is organizing two Richmond Chapters of The John Birch Society. According to BACKMAN, T. COLEMAN ANDREWS, SR. was one of the eleven men who, with WELCH, originally founded The John Birch Society in Massachusetts. The Society, which has published "The Blue Book", is now in the process of compiling "The Green Book." BACKMAN feels that The John Birch Society is one of the few groups in the country which is taking active positive steps to combat Communism, but before becoming identified with the Society, wanted information as to whether it is subversive. He also wanted any data which could be given him as to the Communism problem in Virginia, and in Richmond in particular. He was advised this information is confidential and has been directed to additional public source material.

3 - Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)

① - Richmond

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100-9991-3

Airtel to Bureau dated 1/20/61

Re: ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.
INFORMATION CONCERNING
INTERNAL SECURITY

On afternoon of 1/19/61, T. COLEMAN ANDREWS, JR. appeared at office and stated he is interested in The John Birch Society and has heard that the group is considered subversive. Before proceeding further, he wanted information concerning it and was making the request, both in his capacity as a private citizen, and as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates representing Richmond. He stated he has been informed that a report emanating from the Ninth Naval District has characterized the Society as subversive on the basis of "deceitful claims." ANDREWS was advised that no data could be furnished him and indicated he was writing a letter to the Director to pose these questions.

Regarding BACKMAN, he is probably the most widely listened to radio news reporter in the City of Richmond. From conversation with him, he has attended the College of William and Mary and apparently graduated from the University of Washington in the State of Washington. Both he and ANDREWS are comparatively young, aged about middle thirties. ANDREWS is son of former U.S. Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Both appeared to be utterly sincere in their stated purpose of combating Communism, highly articulate, and if they persist in efforts to create this Society, will undoubtedly arouse a great deal of public interest in the subject. T. COLEMAN ANDREWS, SR. presently heads an insurance firm in the City of Richmond.

BROWN

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

TO : SAC, RICHMOND

FROM : SAWILSON B. WADDY

DATE: 1/14/61

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On 1/14/61 MR. GEORGE PETLEY, 2413 Beacon Lane, Richmond, Va. called personally at the FBI Office, Richmond, Va. and was interviewed by the writer. MR. PETLEY furnished the following information.

PETLEY is a salesman for the Continental Can Company and currently resides at above address in Richmond.

PETLEY has recently become interested in the activities of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, a national organization which is organizing a local chapter at Richmond. PETLEY stated that according to literature he has received, published by this SOCIETY, it is strongly anti-Communist. He also stated that prominent individuals in Richmond are interested in organizing the local chapter, PETLEY did not identify these prominent individuals. PETLEY stated that in spite of the anti-Communist nature of the literature published by the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, he does not know if its activities are really anti-Communist but rather subversive and such that he should become affiliated with it. He also said that he does not want to become associated with an organization which is facist and one which indiscriminately labels those holding opposing views to be communists.

PETLEY asked for any information in possession of the Richmond FBI Office that would assist him in making a determination as to the nature of this SOCIETY. He asked if the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY is on the ~~xxx~~ AG's list of subversive organizations.

PETLEY was advised that that it is not within the authority of the FBI to either clear or condemn an organization. He was advised that some organizations are investigated by the FBI at the specific request of the AG and

2- Richmond
WBW:
(2)

100-9991-4

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FBI - RICHMOND	

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that the results of these investigations are submitted to the AG for whatever action is deemed necessary.

PETLEY was advised that information regarding the organizations on the AG's list could be obtained from the office of the Attorney General, Washington, D.C. or from the office of the US Attorney, Richmond, Va.

PETLEY asked if the Richmond FBI Office would be interested in having samples of the literature published by JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. He was told that such literature would be of value to the FBI. PETLEY stated that he would revisit the FBI office in Richmond to make available this literature.

TRUE COPY

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

T. Coleman Andrews, Jr.
Richmond City
American Building
Richmond, Virginia

Committee Assignments:
Finance
Militia and Police
Currency and Commerce
Manufactures and Mechanic
Arts

January 20, 1961

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

Knowing your background and history as a dedicated and patriotic public servant I am writing to you in the hopes that you can enlighten me or at least reassure me.

As you will probably understand it is my opinion that the real threat to the survival of this country comes-not from the supply of hydrogen bombs which the Kremlin possesses, but rather with that incredible ability which it has to infiltrate and subvert the institutions of her enemies. I believe this threat to be so real, in fact, that I have decided that whatever I can do on an individual basis to resist and throw back the tide which is engulfing us, I will do with all my heart and soul.

There are many groups who have and are vehemently anti-communist. There are few, if any; however, which I can recall which has a positive program for meeting this menace which we face. One such group which has attracted my attention and, frankly, with which I am actively involved, is the John Birch Society. Undoubtedly you have read and know of the John Birch Society. In fact I am told that your organization has available to it and from time to time makes use of the files which the John Birch Society has.

TRUE COPY

100-9991-5

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SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 28 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

[Signature]

TRUE COPY

I am disturbed, however, that the John Birch Society does not enjoy the reputation with all anti-communist groups which I think it deserves. I would be forever grateful to you if you would let me know whether or not your department has taken any position with respect to the work of the John Birch Society. That is, do you consider them as I understand the Ninth Naval District does, subversive because of "the element of deceit" in the writings of its founder and driving force, Robert Welch.

I am perfectly aware that you and your associates cannot put into writing the reports and evidence which you possess relative to certain situations and, I; therefore, would be happy to do whatever is necessary to meet personally with a representative of your organization who can give me the information that I desire consistent with your established policies.

Whatever you can do in this regard to enlighten and inform me I shall be forever grateful to you. In the meantime, thank you kindly for your indulgence and please be assured of my warmest personal regards.

Cordially yours,

/s/ T. Coleman Andrews Jr
T. Coleman Andrews, Jr.

TCAjr/vlc

TRUE COPY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

TO : SAC, Richmond

DATE: January 27, 1961

jest
FROM : Director, FBI (62-104401)

PERSONAL ATTENTION

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

100-9991-2

Reference is made to your telephone call to Assistant Director A. H. Belmont on January 19, 1961, and your airtel dated January 20, 1961, captioned "Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., Information Concerning, (Internal Security),"

There are enclosed two copies of a letter dated January 20, 1961, from T. Coleman Andrews, Jr.

For your information, the John Birch Society (JBS) has not been investigated by the Bureau. It is allegedly an anticommunist organization created in 1958 by Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., a wealthy candy manufacturer in Belmont, Massachusetts, and has branches throughout the United States. Welch and his organization have been very critical of former President Eisenhower. The Bureau has no record of having made use of the files of the JBS, and we have received no indication that the Ninth Naval District considers the organization subversive.

You are instructed to personally contact Mr. Andrews and orally acknowledge receipt of his letter at the Bureau. He should be advised of the confidential nature of information in our files and that the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the FBI as an investigative agency do not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, publication or organization. He may be advised, however, that the FBI has never investigated the JBS or Robert H. W. Welch. It should be made clear to Mr. Andrews, however, that this statement should not be construed as a clearance or nonclearance of this organization and individual by the FBI. You should also explain to Mr. Andrews that the FBI does not make use of the files of the JBS. During this contact, you should attempt to discreetly determine from Mr. Andrews the source of his statement that the Ninth Naval District considers the JBS subversive because of "the element of deceit."

The results of this contact should be promptly submitted to the Bureau.

Enclosures (2)

100-9991-6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 28 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

SAC

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

TO : SAC, RICHMOND

DATE: 1/27/61

MWJ
MB
FROM : SAC, WFO (62-0)

SUBJECT: GEORGE S. PETLEY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
INTERNAL SECURITY

On 1/24/61, Mr. GEORGE S. PETLEY, 2413 Beacon Lane, Richmond, Virginia (AT 87320), appeared at the WFO and advised IC LEWIS GREY BROCKMAN he wished to advise the FBI of the activities re the John Birch Society. Mr. PETLEY advised as follows:

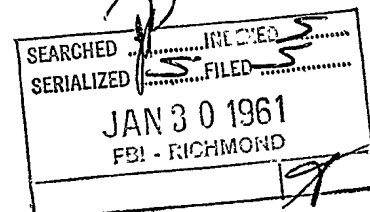
He is a salesman for the Continental Can Company currently living in Richmond, Virginia. Several weeks ago he became interested in the remarks of a radio news commentator and wrote to a Richmond, Virginia, announcer who told him that if he had further interest in this field he should write to the John Birch Society, Belmont, Massachusetts. He said that one ROBERT WELCH founded the society in 1958.

He accordingly wrote to Belmont, Massachusetts. He has received some literature from this society. He attended a meeting of the John Birch Society approximately 10 days ago in the Merkall Building, Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. T. COLEMAN ANDREWS, JR., presided at the meeting. Mr. PETLEY was very much impressed with ANDREWS and thinks he has a sincere desire to thwart communism. There were approximately 12 people attending the meeting. They pay \$2.00 monthly dues. Meetings are held once each month in ANDREWS's insurance office in the Merkall Building and the next meeting is scheduled for 8:00 p.m., 2/6/61.

Mr. PETLEY related he became more concerned about the society when he read the literature received from Belmont, Massachusetts. He said the literature indicated the John Birch Society intends to impeach Chief Justice EARL WARREN of the US Supreme Court.

② Richmond (RM)
1- WFO

LGB:erm
(3)



WFO 62-0

PETLEY said he is a loyal American citizen. He is interested in helping defeat communism. He does not wish to become involved with any subversive organization. He inquired if the FBI could furnish him any information re the John Birch Society. He wanted to know if the society is on the Attorney General's subversive list. He was advised that the files of the FBI are strictly confidential. He was furnished the address and phone number of the Internal Security Section, Department of Justice, and advised he could contact that section to ascertain if such organization is listed on the Attorney General's subversive list.

He said he would contact the Government Printing Office, WDC, in an effort to obtain copies of various reports which maybe available re communistic activities in this country. He further stated he was going to write to the FBI to determine if any copies of Director HOOVER's speeches concerning communism could be made available to him.

He briefly advised an agent in the Richmond Office of this matter several days ago. He said he is willing to cooperate with the FBI in any manner if he can be of assistance. He knows nothing further re this society at the present time. He possibly will contact the Richmond Office at a later date.

This is furnished for information and any appropriate action deemed necessary in accordance with SAC Letter Number 60-5, dated 1/26/60, page 3. WFO indices were negative re GEORGE S. PETLEY.

DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

2/1/61

SAC, RICHMOND (100-9991)

~~JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY~~
~~INFORMATION CONCERNING~~
~~(INTERNAL SECURITY)~~

ReBulet 1/27/61.

On the afternoon of 1/31/61 the instructions contained in ref Bulet were carried out in a personal interview with Mr. T. COLEMAN ANDREWS, JR.

He appeared to be pleased and satisfied with the information furnished.

Regarding the source of his statement that the Ninth Naval District considers the Society to be subversive, Mr. ANDREWS said that he had received a letter from a friend of his, whom he did not identify. He gathered that this statement was based on a report his friend had seen from the Ninth Naval District, as his correspondent, in turn, has a friend attached thereto. Mr. ANDREWS stated that his father, T. COLEMAN ANDREWS, SR., is a personal acquaintance with the new Secretary of the Navy and that he intends through this channel to obtain further data regarding this Naval characterization.

I have the impression after this interview that ANDREWS intends to proceed with his activities in this Society.

2 - Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)
① - Richmond

EEB:GTC
(3)

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BY Wade DATE 1/1/61

(A)

100-9991-812

COLEMAN ANDREWS
6 IRIS LANE
RICHMOND 26, VIRGINIA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

February 1, 1961

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Coleman Jr. and I have been thinking recently that we could not do a finer thing for our community than persuade you to come here for an address on communism.

John Synon, whom you know, I believe, or whom you at least recognize as a contributor to HUMAN EVENTS, is our public relations adviser, and, if you decided that you could come to Richmond, we would have him handle the organization and publicizing of the meeting, although I would think that mere statement of the fact that you would be the speaker would be all the publicity we would need.

We would plan to hold the meeting sometime in March and believe that it would be best if it were made a dinner meeting, in which case we would stage it at our largest hotel, the John Marshall, where an audience of from 800 to 1000 persons could be accommodated.

There is no doubt about our ability to fill the ballroom of that hotel. Indeed, the only concern that we would have about attendance would be that we would not be able to accommodate all the people who would want to be there.

I might add that it is not my idea that Coleman Jr. and I alone sponsor your appearance. On the contrary, if you were willing to come, we would have your visit sponsored by a representative group of Richmond's leading citizens and, of course, would expect also to have appropriate representation from Virginia's members in congress, the government of the State of Virginia, and that of the City of Richmond.

100-9991-9

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 8 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

- 2 -

February 1, 1961

I know how vitally you are interested in the business of making the people of America conscious of the threat of communism, and we sincerely hope that you will be pleased to accept our invitation. We would be able, of course, to make the date one that would be agreeable to you.

I shall be greatly obliged if you will let me have your answer at your first convenience.

Cordially,



T. Coleman Andrews

TCA:hs

CC: Hon. Harry F. Byrd
Hon. William M. Tuck

T. COLEMAN ANDREWS
6 IRIS LANE
RICHMOND 26, VIRGINIA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

February 1,

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Last night I was reviewing your "Masters of Deceit" and the thought occurred to me that a reprint of the foreword, table of contents and first chapter might very well prove to be an excellent medium for exciting the interest of people in the dangers that are inherent in the Communist conspiracy.

My older son and I have put aside practically everything else in which we have been interested in order to devote most of our spare time to trying to alert the people of this community and area in the fact that the Communist conspiracy is something far more tangible than just a conversation piece, and we have been having considerable success. We have found that the film strips and tape commentary that comprise "Communism on the Map" that was developed by National Education Program has served excellently as a means of getting people interested, and we are planning to add to our library a copy of "Operation Abolition."

However, we also have found that most people shrink from reading books, not that they aren't interested, but rather that reading is a laborious and time-consuming activity for most people.

But I believe that a short thing that carries a lot of punch would stimulate the average reluctant reader to go further; and I am convinced that a reprint of the foreword, the table of contents and the first chapter of "Masters of Deceit" would be excellent for this purpose. I feel sure that the average person who reads such a reprint would want to go further.

Obviously, if this idea is a sound one, adoption of it naturally would increase the sales of "Masters of Deceit." However, I

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SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
FEB 8 1961
FBI - RICHMOND

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

- 2 -

February 1, 1961

am sure that you will agree that even more important than that is the necessity of getting as many people as possible started on the business of thoroughly briefing themselves on the nature and ways of communism and Communists.

I shall be greatly obliged if you will let me know at your first convenience how this idea strikes you; and with warm personal regards, I am

Cordially,



T. Coleman Andrews

TCA:hs

February 7, 1961

Honorable T. Coleman Andrews
6 Iris Lane
Richmond 26, Virginia

My dear Mr. Andrews:

Your letters of February 1 have been received, and I am honored by your desire that I come to Richmond in March for the purpose of delivering a speech on communism.

I know that you realize it would be a distinct pleasure for me to participate in the interesting program you are planning, and I do wish it were possible. Unfortunately, my official schedule precludes my indicating an acceptance. You will be interested to learn that Senator Byrd and Congressman Tuck have also written me concerning this matter, and I advised both of them of my inability to be present.

Please accept my thanks for giving me the benefit of your observations and for your generous remarks concerning my book, "Masters of Deceit." With respect to your inquiry, there are no plans in the foreseeable future to reprint portions of the book in pamphlet form. We do have several reprints on the general subject of communism which I believe may serve the purpose you have in mind. I am enclosing copies of this literature for your perusal and additional copies in quantity of any of it are available upon request.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (8)

① - Richmond - Enclosures (2)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 8 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

100-9991-11

WM. M. TUCK
5TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

A. G. Lacy
Secretary

February 2, 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Our mutual friend, Mr. T. Coleman Andrews of Richmond, Virginia, informed me that he has extended an invitation to you to come to Richmond and deliver an address on communism. I truly hope that you will be able to do so at some convenient date in the month of March. As you may know, Coleman Andrews and his son, Coleman, Jr., have been presenting Dr. George Benson's "Communism on the Map" to audiences in the City of Richmond on an average of about twice a week for the past three months. The response has been favorable and much interest has been demonstrated. I believe your appearance in Richmond in response to the invitation would contribute immeasurably and produce wonderful results in alerting the citizenry to the problems presented by communism.

I am confident that a large group of substantial and representative citizens of the City of Richmond would welcome you and consider it a privilege and pleasure to attend a dinner meeting at which you would be the speaker.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Wm. M. Tuck

Wm. M. Tuck

WMT:ssw

100-9991-12

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 8 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

February 7, 1961

Honorable William M. Tuck
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

My dear Congressman:

Your letter of February 2, concerning
Mr. Andrews' cordial invitation for me to deliver an
address on communism in Richmond, has been received.

While this is something I would very much
like to do, my official schedule precluded an acceptance.
I am indeed sorry this situation exists; however, I know
you will understand the difficulties involved. Please accept
my thanks for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

① - Richmond - Enclosure

100-9991-13

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 8 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

HARRY FLOOD BYRD, VA., CHAIRMAN

ROBERT S. KERR, OKLA.
J. ALLEN FREAR, JR., DEL.
RUSSELL B. LONG, LA.
GEORGE A. SMATHERS, FLA.
CLINTON P. ANDERSON, N. MEX.
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ALBERT GORE, TENN.
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EUGENE J. MC CARTHY, MINN.
VANCE HARTKE, IND.

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JOHN MARSHALL BUTLER, MD.
NORRIS COTTON, N.H.
CARL T. CURTIS, NEBR.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

ELIZABETH B. SPRINGER, CHIEF CLERK

February 2, 1961 d

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

I am advised by my friend, T. Coleman Andrews, that you have been invited to make an address on communism in Richmond, Virginia, at a dinner meeting on a date in March.

I do hope you can accept this invitation.

When I saw of your reappointment, I said that you were the one completely indispensable man in our public affairs.

My warmest regards and best wishes to you.

Faithfully yours,

Harry F. Byrd

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 8 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

100-9991-14

February 7, 1961

Honorable Harry Flood Byrd
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I have received your letter of February 2,
and I sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing me
concerning Mr. Andrews' invitation for me to make an address
on communism in Richmond in March.

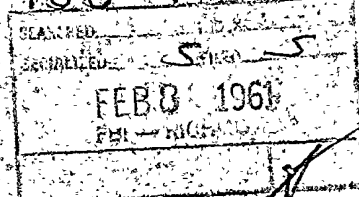
While I do wish it were possible to have accepted
this engagement, particularly in view of your personal interest,
it was necessary to decline it. My official commitments
precluded a favorable reply, and I know you will understand my
position.

Please accept my warm personal thanks for your
generous comments concerning President Kennedy's request
that I continue to serve as Director of the FBI. It is my earnest
desire that our future endeavors will merit your continued
support and approval.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

① - Richmond - Enclosure



Ross Valentine

T. Coleman Andrews on Castro

First we will take Eastern Europe; next the masses of Asia; then we shall encircle the last bastion of capitalism, the United States of America. We shall not have to attack it; it will fall like an overripe fruit into our hands.

—Lenin

The West must search for world governments; and we must face the fact that Khrushchev will be the first president.

—The Rev. David Soper of London
Lyman Beecher lecturer at
Yale University, in 1960.

Both quotations are from a speech made by T. Coleman Andrews in Milwaukee on January 19. I hope Mr. Andrews will publish it in pamphlet form. It is an excellent presentation of *why, how, when and where* the Leninist conspiracy has scored its signal successes—not only in overpopulated, underdeveloped, newly emerging countries, but in the West's principal "bastions" of Anglo-Saxon self-government.

The two quotations at the head of this column are the "before" and "after" texts upon which Mr. Andrews based his dissertation. Unlike many Americans, Mr. Andrews is not laboring under the illusion that our economic strength alone—the ability to produce luxury goods (and sell them on credit)—is by itself sufficient to assure victory in the cold war.

★ ★ ★

"WE'RE IN A WAR," he said, "a war as real as any the world has ever known... a war to the death. We face a fanatically determined enemy—and the tide of battle is running in his favor; that kind of enemy doesn't quit. He has to be defeated."

It is a war of ideas, he said, of truth vs. fallacies—and ~~should~~ the revolutionaries triumph, "neutrals will get the same treatment as active enemies." He quoted Dante, who wrote, "the hottest fires of Hell are reserved for those who, in a period of moral crisis, maintain neutrality."

But he's not speaking of India, the Arab states, or the newly created African republics. He is talking about the United States where the Soviet ideology persistently and almost imperceptibly promoted through the "soft sell" of leftwing "gradualists," has undermined and corroded the popular will-to-resist.

Inadvertently or consciously, he says, through stupidity or ineptitude, these people—editors, preachers, writers and TV pontificators—have been guilty of inadvertent collaboration with the enemy.

"Eastern Europe is gone," Andrews reminds us, "and most of Asia—and the anchor point of the prophesied encirclement (of the United States) has been established within seconds of our shore by ~~socialism~~." The success of the Fabian intellec-

tuas, bailing for Moscow, ~~as~~ may be attributed to:

"A cover of respectability and good manners as a means of gaining entry into all social activities, while avoiding the label of 'socialism,' but promoting 'socialism' continuously by coloring such activities with new terms so as to attain socialism by stealth."

The woods, of course, are full of these subtle persuaders—including leftists entrenched in the vast army of federal bureaucracy—and the highest advisory echelons.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date: FEB 8 1961

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Author:

Re:

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RH FILE:

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FEB 9 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

2 [Signature]

As John Dos Passos notes in his about to be published *Middlemarch*, "A proper brass hat doesn't know whether it's raining or sunshine, until he's briefed by his staff. Like the queen



bee, he's fed on royal jelly."

He was speaking of the military, but the same is true in the political sphere where the President was fed on Red (instead of royal) jelly, by the likes of Harry Dexter White and Alger Hiss.

Concerning the Andrews establishment of a Red wedge between the Americas—a biscuit's toss off the Florida Keys, Andrews claims voluminous evidence that Castro was known to be a Communist no later than 1948. In April of that year, he says, "Colombian detectives took correspondence away from Castro . . . which showed Castro and his companion belonged to the Communist party in Cuba."

* * *

"WAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT asleep?" asks Andrews, from April 1948 until the end of 1958, when the State Department expert on Latin American affairs assured a Senate subcommittee that there was no evidence that Señor Castro himself was under Communist influence?"

To this we might add that the nation's top editors were presumably equally uninformed or misinformed. In January of 1959, immediately after Castro took over in Havana, the American Society of Newspaper Editors invited Castro to address their annual meeting. This precipitate move induced the American people to believe that the Bearded One was a messiah of classical liberalism, instead of a potential enemy at the very doorstep of their own country.

The United States may not yet be as Lenin prophesied, "overripe" and ready to fall into Communist hands—but as Andrews made clear—it is much later than a self-indulgent, careless and TV-conditioned public has been led to believe.

Del. Andrews to Speak

The South Side Richmond
Citizen Club will meet at 12:30
tomorrow at Cox's Restaurant.
Del. T. Coleman Andrews Jr.
will discuss communism.

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
Richmond, Virginia

Date: **FEB 7 1961**

Editor: JOHN J. KILPATRICK

Author:

Re:

BUFILE:

RICHMOND FILE:

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DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 8 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

**Hails Andrews' Speech
On Red Conspiracy**

It is indeed heartening to read Ross Valentine's excellent column of February 8 concerning the recent speech of Mr. T. Coleman Andrews.

I have had the pleasure of reading that speech and I feel that if any criticism is due Mr. Valentine's column, it is simply that he has not done justice to the true value of Mr. Andrews' speech.

The speech is superb. I have not read any document that more accurately describes the true nature and pattern of the Communist conspiracy. In my opinion, this speech should be required reading for all loyal Americans who are concerned about the future of our country.

GEORGE S. PETTIGREW
Richmond

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date: FEB 10 1961

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Author:

Re:

BUFILE:

RH FILE:

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 13 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

9

Warren's Acts Call For Impeachment

Editor, The News Leader:

The effort of the John Birch Society to bring about the impeachment of Earl Warren is a noble undertaking—no matter what the outcome.

The fact that the American people didn't raise up "en masse" with this same demand on the day following the integration ruling is proof positive of how very lackadaisical and namby-pamby we've become.

Some say the effort is doomed to failure for lack of grounds. I disagree. Isn't public opinion actually a more potent force than solid legal grounds? Why argue? Let's just demand.

The legal eagles in Washington can twist and distort "legal grounds," but show me a politician who can ignore loud, persistent cries from the folks back home.

After ruling in favor of the Communists in 30 out of 39 cases (American Bar Association report), the Warren court has shown us what it is.

Why quibble?

M. W. HORNE

High Court Judges Have False Concepts

Editor, The News Leader:

Earl Warren, and seemingly with him most of the U. S. Supreme Court members, are imbued with a wholly false concept of our form of government—that is, they follow the European ideal of governmental sovereignty, that the king is all powerful. He, not the people, gives the rights, and what is not given, he, the king, retains in residuum. This is a false concept.

America was founded on the U. S. Constitution was formulated on exactly the reverse. Here the people, the people in each one of the 50 States of the Union, are the final, ultimate, and deciding sovereigns. They will give; they will take away—not any king, or any usurping, dictatorial "high court" of a Lord Jeffries shade.

Earl Warren should go back to school and restudy the American history, law, and the Constitution. He should never have been put on our U. S. Supreme Court. It is deplorable, yet a fact, that his decisions, beginning with that infamous 1954 school integration decision, have done more to divide and create chaos in America than all that Mr. Khrushchev and his Communists possibly could have effected. He should resign now!

L. P. SCOTT



EARL WARREN

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
Richmond, Virginia

Date: FEB 15 1961

Editor: JOHN J. KILPATRICK

Author:

Re:

BUFILE:

RICHMOND FILE:

*File Birch
John Birch
Society*

100-9991-19

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FEB 16 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

*2200
(124)*

Hails Andrews' Speech On Red Encroachment

I write to compliment Mr. Ross Valentine on his column of February 8 devoted to the recent Milwaukee speech of Mr. T. Coleman Andrews of Richmond, on the subject of encroachment of communism around the world and now in our own front yard in Cuba.

Further, I second Mr. Valentine's expressed hope and desire that Mr. Andrews' speech in its entirety be published to the end that its profound mes-

sage of warning to the American people be given the greatest possible exposure.

In the manner of Britain's Winston Churchill in the pre-war days, Mr. Andrews has devoted himself to the task of attempting to awaken an apathetic citizenry to the mortal dangers of the Communist conspiracy that confronts us today.

BARBARA E. MARTIN
Richmond.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia.

Date: FEB 23 1961

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Author:

Re:

BUFILE:

RH FILE:

100-7991-20

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 28 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

DIRECTOR, FBI

3/7/61

SAC, CHARLOTTE (100-9458)

100-9991-28

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING - INTERNAL SECURITY

On 2/21/61, Mr. REGINALD E. VAUGHAN contacted the Greensboro, N. C. Resident Agency.

Mr. VAUGHAN advised that he was extremely interested in anti-Communist activities and that he had recently heard of the John Birch Society and understood that their purpose was to fight Communism in the U. S. However, he advised that prior to joining any such society he desired to ascertain if this organization was in any way subversive.

He stated he had written to the headquarters of the John Birch Society at Belmont, Mass., and received some publications from this organization. He stated that in these publications it listed some of the council members, among which that were well known was Mr. T. COLEMAN ANDREWS, former Director of Internal Revenue Service, and ADOLPH MENJOU, movie actor. These publications further indicated to him that this organization was organized at Indianapolis, Ind. in 1958, and that one Mr. ROBERT WELCH was the founder of this society.

He stated that if he could ascertain that this organization was not subversive and was actually dedicated to fighting Communism in the United States as reflected in its publications he would be interested in such a society at Salem, Va., where he resides.

Mr. VAUGHAN was advised that the jurisdiction and responsibility of the FBI do not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, publication or organization. He was advised the FBI is an investigative agency of the Federal government and as such does not issue clearances or non-clearances.

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
- ① - Richmond (Info.) (RM)
- 1 - Charlotte (100-9458)

HCM: jax
(4)

100-9991-21

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SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 9 - 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Little
w/ 2, 3 & 6

CE 100-9458

Mr. VAUGHAN is described as:

White

Male

Born 12/14/24, Victoria, Va.

Height 5' 9"

Weight 145 pounds

Employment - salesman for Steel's Service Warehouse,
Roanoke, Va.

Military service - U. S. Navy, claims honorable discharge
NSN 8352980

Residence - 45 Upland Drive, Salem, Va.

The above is being furnished for the information of the Bureau and Richmond in the event that a John Birch Society is organized at Salem, Virginia, and the above individual is a member or assists in organizing the John Birch Society in the city where he resides.

Nixon Scores Birch-Style Fight on Reds

LOS ANGELES, March 18 (AP)—Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon says he opposes the political techniques of the John Birch Society.

In a letter to the Los Angeles Times yesterday, Nixon endorsed the newspaper's editorial stand against the society and added:

"One of the most indelible lessons of human history is that those who adopt the doctrine that the end justifies the means inevitably find the means become the end."

The Times printed two pages of pro and con letters of reaction to its front-page editorial March 12 by publisher Otis Chandler. The Times criticized what it termed the Society's methods "to fight Communists in Communist fashion."

The editorial described the Society's leader, Robert Welch,

as the group's "absolute master." The Times said quotations from Welch and supporters "nail down the treacherous fallacy that an honorable or noble objective justifies any means to achieve it."

Reached at his home in Belmont, Mass., Welch said he had not yet seen Nixon's comments, but said he had no comment anyway.

Agreeing with the newspaper, Nixon added in his letter:

"It may at times seem unrealistic and naive to follow the rules of the game when our opponents are so unscrupulous and completely devoid of morality. But, in the end, refusing to resort to methods that are wrong not only is right but in the long run it is the most effective way to combat an evil doctrine like communism."

The Society is named after an American priest executed as a spy a few years ago by the Red Chinese. The Society, which says it seeks to stop the spread of communism, has attracted some adherents of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R-Wis.).

NEWSPAPER: Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

DATE: 3-19-61

EDITOR:

AUTHOR:

RE: John Birch Society

BUFILE: 62-104401

RHFILE: 100-9991

100-9991-22

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 20 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

mm *A*

(D) ~~THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY~~ (JBS) -- SAC Letter 59-13 (F), dated March 10, 1959, set out background data concerning Robert H. Welch, Jr., a candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, and his anticommunist campaign. SAC Letter 60-5 (C), dated January 26, 1960, advised that in December, 1958, Welch created an organization called "The John Birch Society," the long-range objective of which has been summarized as "less government, more responsibility, and a better world."

Recently, a printer in Santa Barbara, California, advised he had received an order from JBS to print 10,000 copies of my poster, "What You Can Do To Fight Communism." The JBS also requested the printer to print an addition on the poster to the effect that this statement was being distributed under the auspices of the JBS. We have advised the printer that the FBI has not given approval for JBS to reproduce the poster nor could the FBI approve of the addition to the poster reflecting its distribution by JBS.

In view of this irresponsible organization's attempt to capitalize on the FBI's prestige, no Bureau publications of any kind are to be made available to JBS or to any of its representatives. You should be alert to the possibility that this group may attempt to reproduce Bureau publications and distribute them giving the impression that the FBI sanctions JBS. Immediately advise the Bureau of any such information coming to your attention. Further, any requests by JBS to reproduce Bureau publications should be turned down.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover

Director

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

3/21/61
SAC LETTER NO. 61-14

- 4 -

100-9991-23

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 22 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Heiser

Director, FBI

3/21/61

SAC, Norfolk (105-New)

100-9991-8

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY)

On 3/9/61, Mrs. KATHERINE G. LEWIS, The Book Nook, 116 College Place, Norfolk, Virginia, advised that The John Birch Foundation or Society had recently held a meeting in a room at the Lafayette Yacht Club, Norfolk. She stated the object of the meeting was to form a chapter of the John Birch Society in Norfolk and the object of the John Birch Society is to fight communism.

She stated that the annual dues are \$24.00 for men and \$12.00 for women and that a life membership can be obtained for \$1,000.00.

Mrs. LEWIS stated that a young man whose name she does not know but who was allegedly from Richmond, Virginia, showed a film regarding the life of JOHN BIRCH at the meeting held in Norfolk. She stated that she got the impression that a chapter of The JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY had been organized in Richmond. Mrs. LEWIS stated that literature was sold to those present and that this included the following:

- (1) The Life of John Birch, by ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.
- (2) American Opinion, Volume II, Number I, January 1959
This contains bibliographies of various books regarding communism and reflects that it is intended primarily for reference purposes.

2 - Bureau (RM)
① - Richmond (Info)(RM)
1 - Norfolk

MES:sc1
(4)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 23 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

100-9991-24

NF 105-New

(3) The Blue Book of the John Birch Society, Third Printing
Copyright 1959 by ROBERT WELCH.

This book reflects that The John Birch Society was founded in Indianapolis on 12/9/58. As of the first anniversary date, it had working chapters in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Louisiana, Texas, California, and Washington.

Mrs. LEWIS stated that the local people in Norfolk who seemed to be the leaders in attempting to form a chapter of The John Birch Society in Norfolk were WILLIAM McKENDREE, FRANK R. FORD, and Mrs. J. ADDISON HAGAN. She stated that she understood that Mrs. HAGAN is a lifetime member of The John Birch Society.

The Norfolk files reflect that WILLIAM I. McKENDREE resides at 9443 Willow Terrace, Norfolk; that he is owner of the WILLIAM I. McKENDREE COMPANY (duplicating machines), 245 W. Bute Street, Norfolk; and has been an active member of the Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties (DSSIL).

On 11/19/55, WILLIAM McKENDREE advised SA HARRY L. McCARTHY of this office that he was a member of the DSSIL and that this group was very anti-communist in its nature and objectives. He stated that he personally had given some public talks against communism.

The Norfolk Ledger Dispatch Newspaper, on 4/11/59, contained an article entitled "Defenders File 3 Candidates For House". This article reflects that three DSSIL-backed candidates announced on 4/11/59 they will seek election to the House of Delegates. One of those named was W. I. McKENDREE. The newspaper identified McKENDREE as one of the founders of the Norfolk Chapter of the DSSIL and the Tidewater Educational Foundation, Inc.

NF 105-New

An article appearing in the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot Newspaper of 11/11/57 reflected that two Norfolk men had been elected to posts in the State organization of the DSSIL. The article further reflected that FRANK R. FORD, Norfolk jeweler, had been named a State Vice-President. The article also reflected that both FORD and HAGAN were members of the Board of the Norfolk Chapter of the organization.

The Norfolk files reflect that JOSEPH ADDISON HAGAN resides at 524 Warren Crescent, Norfolk; that he is the owner of Hagan Sales Company, 820 W. 21st Street, Norfolk (manufacturer's representative).

A mimeographed leaflet carrying the heading "Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties, Norfolk Chapter" reflected that a meeting of this group was to be held on 10/18/60. This leaflet was signed: Defenders of State Sovereignty, J. Addison Hagan, President, Norfolk Chapter.

J. ADDISON HAGAN is also carried as the victim in Norfolk File 9-256; Bufile 9-34513.

No investigation is being conducted concerning The John Birch Society, UACB; however, any additional information received regarding this organization will be promptly furnished to the Bureau.

Information copy of this letter being sent Richmond since Mrs. LEWIS reported a man from Richmond was in attendance at the Norfolk meeting of entitled organization.

* Index

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Center of Storm

John Birch Group Takes Aim at Reds

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a three-part series on the controversial John Birch Society, an anti-Communist organization. The second part of the series tomorrow will give the society's answer to its critics.

By JULIAN MORRISON
SUN Staff Writer

Few Americans ever heard of a man named John Birch until just recently.

One of the few who had is a retired State Department officer, Bryton Barron of Springfield, and even Barron did not hear of him until more than a decade after Birch's death.

NOW, BARRON, a soft spoken man, but one possessed of firm



BRYTON BARRON

(One of a SUN Series)

convictions, is the spokesman for the John Birch Society in the Washington Metropolitan region.

As such, Barron is still one of the relatively few Americans who really knows anything about John Birch or, more importantly, about the organization founded in his name in December, 1958, by a Massachusetts candy maker named Robert H. W. Welch Jr.

He may not long hold that position.

The organization has in the past few months caused a veritable storm of controversy in some quarters of American society.

IT HAS been blasted by newspapers, by commentators, and by at least two members of the United States Senate.

Its public defenders have, to date, been few and far between. Between its adherents and its

critics there exists an almost perfect vacuum which, seemingly, will allow of no compromise.

The Birch Society, a group of admittedly staunch conservatives (so staunch that the word might have been coined to describe them), has been accused of being so reactionary as to be subversive.

IT HAS been charged with being against just about everything in the modern world except motherhood: against big government, against income taxes, the Supreme Court, Communism, and the last four presidents of the United States, among other things.

Baron, the local liaison man with the Society's founder, says all this isn't true.

The only thing the Society is

(Continued on Page A-3)

BUFILE:

RHFILE:

NEWSPAPER: The Northern
Virginia Sun
Arlington, Va.

DATE: 3/30/61
EDITOR: ROGER B. FARQUHAR

~~PHILIP M. STERN~~

AUTHOR:

RE: John Birch Society
Info. Concerning

100-9991-25

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

John Birch Group Takes Aim at Reds

(Continued from Page 1)

anti-Communist," he said yesterday.

But the former chief of the State Department's treaty staff went on to say that the current program of the Society concentrates on having Chief Justice Warren impeached, abolishing the income tax, and boycotting goods imported from Iron Curtain countries.

ITS OPPONENTS claim that Society members live under the gun of a man (Welch) who has attacked church and state alike, who has characterized democracy as "a weapon of demagoguery and a perennial fraud," who has painted the Marshall Plan and efforts at desegregation in the South as Communist-inspired, and who slaps at his dissenters with a red herring.

To all these charges Bryton Barron takes immediate exception.

To the allegation that the Society, through Welch, has accused some American ministers of espousing Communism, Barron cites a letter from a Roman Catholic prelate, Boston's Cardinal Cushing, which says of Welch, "I do not know of any more dedicated anti-Communist in the country."

To accusations that Welch has labeled all former presidents since Herbert Hoover as Communists, Barron replies that although this may be the retired candy manufacturer's private opinion, it was expressed before the society came into being, was only a private opinion, has never been suggested by Welch to the Society, and would likely be rejected out of hand by its members if it were.

RATHER than being an autocratic group, dictated to by its founder, as its critics claim, Barron pictures the Society as simply laying down guidelines for conservative Americans who may then either follow or reject them.

Barron says that the several hundred society members who live in the environs of the seat of this nation's government are, to a

man, dedicated Americans whose cause has been "pictured in a false light."

But one newspaper, in an editorial on the activities of the Society, commented recently that "Subversion, whether of the left or of the right, is still subversion."

Attacks on Birch Society
Held 'Anti-Communist Smear'

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date: APR 1 - 1961

Editor: VIRGINIUS BABNEY

Author:

Re:

BUFILE:

RH FILE: 100-9991

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

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SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED...5...	FILED...5...
APR - 1 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

WASHINGTON, March 31—

(AP)—A congressman Friday called congressional attacks on the rightist John Birch Society part of a "pro-Communist smear." The congressman, Rep. Hiestand (R-Calif.), is a member.

Despite Hiestand's description of the critics, criticism continued to mount against the society whose founder once said former President Eisenhower was "a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy."

A spokesman for the Justice Department said the society's activities have become "a matter of concern to the Justice Department."

In addition, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover published a statement advising against "vigilante action against communism."

The society was founded in 1958 by Robert H. Welch Jr., a 61-year-old retired candy manufacturer in Massachusetts.

Welch proclaims the destruction of communism as one of his aims. The society takes its name from a Baptist missionary killed by Communists in China 10 days after the close of World War II.

In recent weeks, the society has stirred much criticism in Congress by attacking such senators as Milton R. Young (R-N. D.), and Thomas H. Kuchel (R-Calif.), and by circulating a petition calling for the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren.

Bayton Barron of Spring-

field, Va., who identified himself as a field representative of the John Birch Society, said "one of the items on the current agenda of the society is the impeachment of Warren."

Barron said one of the bases for urging the impeachment of Warren is the attitude of the Supreme Court. Barron said that "in a total of 39 cases before the court involving Communist subversion, Justice Warren ruled in 36 of them in favor of the Communist point of view."

"The trend of decisions of the Supreme Court has been destructive of internal security measures," Barron added. He is a retired State Department historian.

Hiestand described society members as "violent, emphatic, dedicated anti-Communists" with not more than 2 per cent possible extremists.

He said criticism of the group by congressmen, other public figures, and newspapers was part of a "pro-Communist smear" and was proof that the society was successful in fighting communism.

He said he could not identify any Communist among those criticizing the society.

"But they are in the background of the smear," he said.

Hiestand said Welch's remarks about Mr. Eisenhower had "been made several years ago and were taken out of context."

Some of the remarks in question were made by Welch in a book, "The Politician," which

Welch has circulated to a few leaders of the society.

In the book, Welch, while discussing Mr. Eisenhower, uses these words:

"But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

Welch denied Friday that he ever called Mr. Eisenhower a "card-carrying Communist."

When asked whether he ever viewed the former President as a Red agent, he replied:

"I never had that opinion. I never thought it then with firmness enough to publish it or to say it in public and I don't today."

Welch's book also describes former Presidents Truman and Roosevelt and the late Secretary of State Dulles as tools of communism. When asked about this, he told a reporter he had said "they were being used by the Communists. I never said they were Communists and I don't say it now."

These statements were first circulated in a "private confidential letter" which was later expanded to book size.

Welch said his letter was read by most of the men who founded the Birch society in 1958 and was "specifically disavowed by the group as being no part of the material or belief of the John Birch Society in any way."

Unhealthy Dreamworld

The John Birch Society has been criticized by Congressmen as a "secret society." But its existence surely is one of the worst-kept secrets in history. The real cause for complaint—by Congressmen, newspaper editors, and ordinary citizens—is not any secrecy or shyness on the part of the members of this fire-eating group. They are, if anything, too vocal. They seem to write tracts and letters as easily and regularly as they breathe. If anyone voices any curiosity or doubt concerning the tenets of this supposedly reticent organization, he must be prepared for a siege that will soon have the postman cursing him.

In both the Senate and the House, demands have been made for an investigation of the John Birch Society as a fanatically anti-Communist group. Certainly the charge that President Eisenhower is a Communist—a charge the Society's chief spokesman is reputed to have made—comes out of a dream world. Men go mad even on the best of ideas, as the history of religion shows. Men could therefore go mad on the subject of anti-communism.

If that is the case here, then this unreason must be opposed by all men who would guard our national heritage by a reasoned and rational defense. But it is difficult to see what business Congress has investigating

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
Richmond, Virginia

Date: APR 3 1961

Editor: JOHN J. KILPATRICK

Author:

Re:

BUFILE:

RH FILE:

*John Birch
Society*

100-9991-27

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 4 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

even the weirdest private foibles or folly. The John Birch Society, whatever its errors or idiocies, is not a conspiratorial organization sworn to overthrow our government. Even on the showing of its critics, this society is merely prone to take extreme views, and to advocate drastic measures, in order to safeguard our country. Such errors have not yet become treason.

Yet behold the paradox unfolding, as men who have denied the right of Congress to investigate Communists flock to the support of an investigation of anti-Communists. Let us marvel as the country's foremost apostles of free speech demand that the John Birch Society be gagged. Milton's great concept, voiced in the *Areopagitica*, was "to let truth and falsehood grapple," but today's Liberals would not even let the Birch boys climb in the ring.

Over the week end, the Society's founder, Robert Welch, did the Liberals a particularly dirty trick by joining in their demand for a congressional investigation of the Society's activities. With a suspicious cordiality, he remarked that neither he nor any member of the Society would take the Fifth Amendment. Considering the nature of his detractors, and some of their own oddball ideas, we are inclined to ask a pointed question: What other brand can make the same claim?

Probes Requested Of Group's Founder

WASHINGTON, March 30—
(AP)—Congress was urged Thursday to investigate the John Birch Society's founder for calling former President Eisenhower "a card-carrying Communist."

One congressman acknowledged membership in the conservative society. He is Rep. Hiestand (R-Calif.) who said, "I'm quite sure there are other members of Congress who are also members of the society."

But Sen. Kuchel (R-Calif.) and Sen. Dodd (D-Conn.) took the floor of the Senate to denounce the organization.

Kuchel said Robert Welch, founder of the society, should

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date:

Editor: VIRGINIUS BABNEY

Author:

Re:

BUFILE:

RH FILE:

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DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

*File - John
Birch Society
A.*

100-9991-28

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAR 31 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

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he called before the Senate Government Operations Committee to answer questions about attacks on the character of General Eisenhower, Chief Justice Earl Warren and others.

To call General Eisenhower a Communist, Kuchel said, "is a fantastic and incredible lie."

"Good God," he asked, "should the American people permit this kind of spleen to be poured on a man who has dedicated his whole life to freedom?"

Sen. McDellan (D-Ark.), chairman of the Government Operations Committee, said it was questionable whether his group would have jurisdiction over the matter.

Dodd said attacks by Welch on General Eisenhower, Warren, former Presidents Roosevelt and Truman and others were "an affront to both decency and intelligence."

Founded Group in 1958

Welch, a 61-year-old retired Boston candy manufacturer, founded the anti-Communist society in 1958.

At Belmont, Mass., Welch said he had no comment.

The society is named in honor of a 27-year-old Baptist missionary killed by the Chinese Communist 10 days after the end of World War II. It considers Birch the first casualty of the cold war.

While Kuchel called for an investigation in the Senate, it was disclosed that Rep. Reuss (D-Wis.) had asked for an investigation in the House.

Reuss asked Rep. Walter (D-Pa.), chairman of the Committee on Un-American Activities, to authorize a probe by his committee.

Walter, in a reply, said the committee has received numerous letters complaining that the organization was un-American. But, he added, their specific complaints allege wrongs to individuals who have recourse to the civil courts.

Hiestand, however, said he would welcome an investigation of the society by Walter's committee.

Hiestand told the Washington Evening Star that such an investigation would help dispel charges that the society is "a dictatorial fascist organization."

The Star said he had written several fellow congressmen Wednesday, urging them not to attack the society "until you know the facts."

The letter was written, Hiestand said, because "a member of the other body has been putting a lot of stuff in the Congressional Record that is simply not accurate."

In recent weeks, the society has been strongly criticized by Sen. Young (R-N.D.).



Robert Welch
Draws Fire in Congress

DIFFERED WITH WELCH

Andrews Cites Group's Aims

One of the 12 organizers of the John Birch Society said here last night that statements and writings of the society's founder, Robert H. W. Welch Jr., do not necessarily represent the official view of the society.

Speaking of Welch's 80,000-word work entitled "The Politician," T. Coleman Andrews said: "It is not required reading of any member of the society and therefore doesn't express the views of the society at all. Some of us disagree with some of the conclusions Welch draws."

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date:

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Author:

Re:

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DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

BUFILE:

RH FILE:

*John Birch
Society*

100-9991-29

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR - 1 1967	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Truman
See me
H

Welch charged in "The Politician" that former President Eisenhower was "a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy." Andrews, a Richmond businessman, served in the first Eisenhower administration as Commissioner of Revenue.

"I don't remember that exact passage," said Andrews, "but I do remember a part of the book about the effects of some of the Eisenhower actions. Welch said 'treason' was the only word for them."

Andrews, who has known

Welch for about five years, said he did not agree with Welch's conclusions about Mr. Eisenhower. "I told Bob [Welch] I didn't submit to that view," he added, "and I think the other organizers probably agreed with me."

"The Politician," according to Andrews, was written before December, 1958, the month the 12 met at Indianapolis to organize the society. He said Welch had sent him a copy of the book, actually a "long" letter.

Andrews said his copy of the book came by registered mail and had a note attached saying it was confidential. After reading the book, he returned it, he said.

The primary aim of the society, Andrews said, is to fight communism on an "intellectual basis." "We don't advocate violence and nobody is required to do anything that smacks of vigilantes," he added.

Literature and information about the society is readily available, according to Andrews. He said there are "a great many" members of the society in the Richmond area but declined to give the exact number.

Membership Requirements

Andrews said that to become a member of the society a person must first receive an invitation. "After that," he said, "you have to show that you have a working knowledge of communism—so you'll know what you're talking about."

The society has chapters in at least 34 states and it has been estimated that a membership of 100,000 may be reached by the end of this year. Bryton Barron of Springfield, a retired State Department historian, is the field representative for Virginia.

Barron refused to tell the New York Times yesterday how many society members are Virginians. However, a member of a society chapter in Alexandria told a reporter for the paper that he knew of chapters in Fairfax county and Charlottesville.

Center of Storm

John Birch Society Investigation Eyed

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third and final part of a series on the controversial John Birch Society, a conservative anti-Communist organization which has been both attacked and defended for its views and those of its leader.

by JULIAN MORRISON
SUN Staff Writer

With the Justice Department expressing its official "concern" over the activities of the John Birch Society, the likelihood of some form of governmental or Congressional investigation of the anti-Communist organization appears quite likely.

At least two members of the Society, its Washington spokesman, Bryton Barron of Springfield, and California Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, say they would wel-

come such investigations.

HIESTAND told a reporter yesterday that he planned to ask the House Un-American Activities Committee to call society members before it, a move he thinks will wreck charges that the two-year-old group is carrying on a vast, underground campaign of smear tactics against those who disagree with its views.

The Society was founded two years ago by a Massachusetts candy maker named Robert Welch.

It is dedicated, its members say, to fighting Communism on all fronts, to reducing the size of government and to promoting individual responsibility in society.

CURRENTLY it is conducting a campaign aimed at the im-

(Continued on Page A-3)

Newspaper: NORTHERN VIRGINIA
SUN
Arlington, Va.

Date:

3/31/61

Editor:

ROGER B. FARQUHAR
PHILIP M. SPERIN

Author:

Julian Morrison

Re:

John Birch Society
Info - Covering

Bufile:

Rhfile:

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SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>ye</i>	FILED <i>ye</i>
APR 4 - 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Investigation Of Anti-Red Society Eyed

(Continued from Page 1)

peachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren for what it calls his decisions in favor of the spread of Communism.

The Society's critics have charged that its members are virtual mental slaves to Welch.

They allege that it operates in secret and by means of whisper campaigns designed to discredit or even ruin those who dare to disagree openly with its methods.

Barron, however, and more recently Rep. Hiestand (the first member of Congress to announce membership in the Society) have expressed alarm over what they term "widespread misrepresentations, some of them Communist-inspired, about the aims and methods of the Society."

Barron, earlier this week, outlined for a reporter this portrait of the society's methods of attempting to educate both its members and the public:

Welch, from the Massachusetts headquarters, sends out a monthly agenda (approved by an executive council) outlining areas of activity and study aimed at furthering the goals of the society (less government, more responsibility, and a better world.)

At monthly meetings of Society chapters, individual members are free to accept or reject the agenda items. —Recent ones have included the Warren impeachment campaign and repeal of federal income taxes (to be supported by abolishment of 200 federal agencies).

IF A MEMBER objects to a proposed goal, he may abstain from working toward it or, if he wishes, withdraw from membership.

The Society, Barron said yesterday, never acts as a unit; it simply suggests courses of action to individual members. It never dictates, never coerces, never recriminates.

To one editorial charge that the society was so rightist as to be subversive, Barron asks how a group whose only aim is to ad-

here to the Constitution can be called subversive.

To another, describing letters to Congress urging Justice Warren's impeachment as "contemptible and vicious" and representing "an extremely dangerous problem for self government in this country," Barron asks, in effect, since when has it been un-American for an American to ask for the ouster of an official he thinks is not doing a good job?

IN A NUTSHELL, Barron is appalled at the storm of protest that has recently grown up over the activities of a group of Americans who, in his words, are dedicated patriots — nothing more, and nothing less.

His, and therefore presumably the Society's, thesis is that international Communism has adopted a subtle course of slow infiltration of the councils of the American state to the end that Communism will be in power in this country before anybody knows what happened.

The attacks on the John Birch Society, Barron thinks, are Communist inspired. After all, he maintains, "what's wou-

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Newspaper: NORTHERN VIRGINIA
SUN
Arlington, Va.

Date: 3/31/60
Editor: ROGER B. FARQUHAR
~~PHILIP M. STERN~~

Author:

Re:

be the losers if the Society's program succeeds.

And in the final analysis, Barron is convinced that despite the storm of controversy and criticism, the Society's way will prevail.

Rhfile:

John Birch Society Attacked and Defended

WASHINGTON, April 3—(AP)—Sen. Young (D-Ohio) Monday called the founder of the John Birch Society a Hitler, a Mussolini, a fake patriot and a slick demagogue.

But Young asked for no investigation by Congress.

Some requests have been made in Congress for an investigation of founder Robert Welch, who once described former President Eisenhower as "a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy."

Young told the Senate that Congress is too busy to take time for such an investigation.

Even if there were time, Young continued, "any mercenary demagogue has the right to express opinions, though discredited, unfounded and false."

While Young attacked the society on the floor of the Senate, another congressman issued a statement in its defense.

Rep. Rousselot (R-Calif.) said he joined the John Birch Society several months ago "because I believe that, in the main, the society is designed to oppose the Communist threat in a positive, legal and correct way."

Rousselot added, however, that certain quoted statements of Welch did not represent the thinking of the whole society.

Young said Welch, a 61-year-old retired candy manufacturer from Belmont, Mass., "is succeeding handsomely in selling life memberships in his society for a thousand dollars each and raking in thousands of dollars every month in members' dues."

The leaders of the society, Young said, were "right-wing crackpots" who "would undermine the very foundations of American democracy."

Welch, Young went on, is the "Mussolini, Il Duce or Fuehrer" of the society and "a fake patriot—a slick demagogue proposing dangerous nonsense."

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date: APR 4 1961

Editor: VIRGINIUS BABNEY

Author:

Re:

BUFILE:

RH FILE: 100-9991

100-9991-31

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FBI - RICHMOND	

Birch Society---Good Or Bad?

The controversy now going on relative to the John Birch Society denotes a trend in American thinking. While the general tenor of thought in the United States is vigorously opposed to Communism, there are many who believe that this national complex is not strong enough that the country needs a positive force to match wits with the Soviet apostles now spread out all over the world.

The mistake the John Birch Society people have made was the accusation that President Eisenhower was a "card-carrying" Communist,--a blatant absurdity on its face, and an assertion which has damaged the cause of the Birch Society members who, for the most part, have laudable and patriotic aims.

Chapters are scattered all over the country and their formation is due largely to a realization that in spite of all the free world does to contain the spread of supreme state authority, as exemplified by Communism, the Russian movement is slowly but surely achieving its ends,--world domination. Eastern Europe is already controlled by the Soviet. China, with its multi-millions, is now Communist ridden. Infiltration is making some headway in Latin-America, and the Asian countries are seething with political unrest.

Should the Soviet triumph finally in negotiating the admission of Red China to the United Nations, it would be another major triumph for Communism and the Russian ideology.

The John Birch Society was founded in 1958 and is named for a Baptist missionary slain by Chinese Communists. It has been steadily growing in a quiet way and originally had some similarity with the Ku Klux Klan, except that it moves along established legal lines and is not attempting terrorism, black magic or stupid shenanigans. The original members are dedicated people who are alarmed at the complacency of the United States towards the spread of Communism in this country and the world.

At present, there is considerable division of opinion but how an extreme rightist movement can be termed "subversive," as some members of Congress have said is hard to understand,--unless there are darker, hidden hues within the society which have not, as yet, defined themselves.

In view of the difference of attitude towards the John Birch Society perhaps a congressional investigation would give it either the seal of approval as a patriotic organization, or one which needs more reliable and conservative spokesmen.

Newspaper: Danville Bee

Date: 4/4/61

Editor: Gerard Tetley

Re:

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BU FILE:

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Let's Not Create Martyrs

Birchers and Their Critics

The John Birch Society lies on the extreme right of the mainstream of American political thought — its existence and incredible philosophy a constant reminder that reactionary fanaticism can take root even in a society as stable and relatively rational as ours.

Once a semi-secret little band of individuals committed to an all-encompassing anti-Communist crusade, the John Birchers have been subjected to such a glare of publicity in recent weeks that they have lost any of the aura and appeal of secrecy they might once have had. In fact, on close scrutiny of their pattern of behavior, common targets, and extremism, it's rather difficult to tell the pros from the antis. The very process of revealing their ideas (such as Birch Leader Robert Welch's allegation that former President Eisenhower is a Communist) should convince the naive and gullible that this group merits little more than an indignant scoff.

However, for two reasons, it would be folly to pounce on the John Birchers with a congressional investigation, a treatment usually reserved for those on the political left. Some congressional figures who have been tarred with the Birchers' brush are seeking a congressional probe; they would be far wiser to take the Birch blast as a compliment and drop the issue in to the wastebasket where it belongs.

In the first place, the Birch group would revel in the national spotlight which would shine on them in an investigation — witness the fact that Welch himself has joined the chorus for a Washington probe. Dogged by the professional inquisitors, they would become Public Figures. In the second place, the best method of making an unpopular cause popular is to begin persecuting it. In other words, in short time, they would become Martyrs.

Let it not be mistaken — this group could become dangerous to the sanity of the United States, not so much for what it is today as for what it might be tomorrow if it is forced inadvertently into becoming an appealing nucleus for shallow, ignorant, and reactionary discontent.

Free interplay of ideas — some good, some bad some foolish — is necessary to the strength of our republic. The Founding Fathers were not afraid of what a lunatic idea might do to the fiber of the country and wrote into our constitution a list of freedoms that has become a model for all societies bent on preserving the liberties of their peoples.

An outcry for an "investigation" has come to be an almost automatic reaction when something goes awry these days. Rather than recognizing this myopic little band as a "danger" to the nation and dignifying it with a full-dress investigation, Washington leaders would do well to watch their doings with a careful eye — and for the time being just let them continue chasing each other around in meaningless circles.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

BUFILE:

RHFILE:

NEWSPAPER: The Northern
Virginia Sun
Arlington, Va.

DATE:

4/5/61

EDITOR:

ROGER B. FARQUHAR
PHILIP M. STERN

AUTHOR:

100-9991

RE:

John Birch Society
Inf. Concerning

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SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 7 1961	
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By George Sokolsky:

Birch Group Has Right To Dissent

I THINK I wrote the first article (January 14) calling attention to the John Birch Society. Since then there has been a plethora of discussion, some competent, some absurd. Let us analyze the position with some objectivity:

Any American citizen is free to organize an association or express his ideas and to advocate his purposes. This is guaranteed in the Constitution. However, no organization may be established to commit crime like the Mafia, or to sell narcotics or to overthrow the government of the United States by force and violence.

No accusations have been made against the John Birch Society which brings it within these categories. The worst crime this Society is accused of having committed is that it is to the right of Louis XIV.

I disagree with the John Birch Society's campaign to impeach the Chief Justice, Earl Warren. I wrote that it is both strategically and tactically unsound and received a whole of a mail, couched in identical language, pitying me for being so wrong. If an organization wishes to have its members write letters to public men, who can say them nay? The public men do not have to read the letters; they may weigh them on scales to see how many pounds of mail came from this one group.

THERE IS no law which forbids citizens to organize to have an official impeached by due process of the law. It is possible to believe that those citizens are incorrect in their views and to say so. But neither side to the controversy commits a crime by being controversial. As a matter of fact, this country would be improved if more of us were controversial. We are not suffering from objecting too much, we are suffering from too much conformity.

Robert Welch, Jr., who is the founder of the John Birch Society, is opposed to communism and believes that it is sound to fight fire with fire. Most fire departments prefer to fight fire with water or with chemicals. Welch organized as he thinks the Communists organize, namely by arranging for small cells, often unknown to each other. Communists do not organize that way at all. It is the Soviet espionage organizations that are organized that way. No one can question Welch's sincerity or his desire to serve his country. How deeply he has studied Hegel, Darwin, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Bukharin, Bernstein, and the history of the 19th century, I do not know. He jumps at conclusions often based on misapplication of terms. But none of



GEORGE SOKOLSKY

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
Richmond, Virginia

Date: APR 7 1961

Editor: JOHN J. KILPATRICK

Author:

Re:

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SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

this is criminal as is the treason of the Communists and many of their fellow-travelers.

It is not sound to believe that everyone who disagrees, in 1961, after two world wars and a universal depression, with the economics of Mark Hanna is a Communist. As a matter of fact, Conservatives who are firm believers, for instance, in the free market, cannot find one upon the face of the Earth.

NEVERTHELESS, a man has the right, in this country, to organize an association which recognizes the status quo ante bellum as preferable, just as an architect may organize a society to prefer Michelangelo to Lloyd Wright or as a musician might organize a society to advocate Stravinsky in preference to Wagner.

Robert Welch, Jr. has requested a public hearing from a Congressional Committee. The risk is that his associates may sound like crackpots; the benefit is that they will be able to state their case. Such a Committee would ask Robert Welch if he really believes that ex-President Eisenhower is a Communist. Obviously, the former President is not a Communist; he is a golfer. Nor can anyone say that Jack Kennedy is a Communist; he is a Roman Catholic and a member of the Communist Party must be an atheist, a believer in dialectical materialism.

It is so easy to straighten out many of these things by a definition of terms. A Communist is a person who accepts a clearly stated dogmatic set of sociological postulates. Whoever does not accept these postulates cannot be a Communist, no matter how hard he tries or how violently he is accused. Neither ex-President Eisenhower nor Chief Justice Earl Warren fits the specifications.

John Birch Society

Is Reported 'Active in Virginia'

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
Richmond, Virginia

Date: APR 10 1961

Editor: JOHN J. KILPATRICK

Author:

Re:

The John Birch Society, a conservative organization, has been criticized and defended in the news the last two weeks. What are its activities in this area? A News Leader Staff writer here makes a report.

By JAMES HAKER

The John Birch Society, a semi-secret organization of conservative-minded individuals dedicated to fighting communism, is "active and growing in Virginia," the organization's coordinator for Virginia declared today.

Bryton Barron of Springfield, full-time field representative for the Virginia organization, said chapters are organized in Richmond and northern Virginia as well as other areas of the state.

Barron refused to say how many Birch Society members

there are in Virginia or how many local chapters are organized in the state because "it is against the national policy."

100,000 MEMBERS

"When you're fighting Communists, you just don't reveal all of your cards," he said in an interview.

The society, which has an estimated 100,000 members in chapters in at least 34 states according to some press reports, is a vigorous fighter against communism. Its methods, however, have stirred controversy in numerous communities around the nation.

There have been demands in Congress for an investigation of the society, and the society itself has said it would welcome such an investigation.

ANDREWS ON COUNCIL

A Richmonder, T. Coleman Andrews Sr., former commissioner of internal revenue, is one of the national organization's council members.

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SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Andrews, T. Coleman Andrews Jr., a member of the House of Delegates and also a member of the society, has been active in the Richmond area showing anti-Communist films.

One night last week, he showed a film strip entitled, "Communism on the Map" to a group of about 80 students at Manchester High School in Chesterfield county.

In a question session afterward, Andrews said he had shown the film strip which deals primarily with the spread of Communism throughout the world since 1917—to 44 groups since January 11. He estimated about 1,800 persons had attended these showings.

QUESTIONS RAISED

The students, members of the Y-Teen Club, raised a number of questions about the film after the showing. One asked Andrews—a member of the Virginia General Assembly—whether he was showing the film because of his dedication to fighting communism or because of politics.

Andrews replied that he was in fact dedicated to fighting communism but that he would not be completely fair if he didn't admit he would welcome

any political benefits that might come his way as a result of his public appearances with the film strip.

He said some of the political effects might be bad, however, because of criticism of the John Birch Society and its activities.

"I've had phone calls at 2:30 in the morning from people calling me a Fascist, since I've been showing this film—but I'm not going to let that stop me," Andrews said.

SOCIETY MEMBER

When asked by a student, Andrews said he was a member of the John Birch Society and added: "I'm proud to be a member of the John Birch Society."

He described the society as a completely honorable group with a high purpose. He said nothing in the society offended his dignity.

At the outset of the discussion, Andrews said he had had some misgivings about showing the film strip to students because some persons didn't think youths should see it.

Andrews said he disagreed. He said young people ought to be given the facts and allowed to make up their minds about the menace of communism.

Of a student's contention that the film strip was "one-sided," Andrews said the film obviously took a stand against the Communist menace. He said the film strip was accurate, despite the fact it presented a definite point of view.

99 PER CENT FALSE

Discussing the John Birch Society in general, Andrews told the students that 99 per cent of what had been published about the society was false.

He said opposition to the society was started by the "Peoples' World," a Communist organ on the West Coast.

Later, he said, a national news magazine used almost the same language, even to use of the word "cell" to describe Birch society chapters, in an article about the society.

In answering another student's question, Andrews said it was true that membership in the Birch society could be revoked without reason.

He said this was necessary in the event undesirable persons got in the society.

TWO DISMISSED

Andrews said there had been only two cases of dismissal from the society—one a woman who wanted to discuss her personal problems at society meetings and the other, a man who wanted to make the society an anti-Semitic group.

As an example of local action by the society, Andrews said a Richmond member recently wrote to a local merchant complaining about the storekeeper selling goods made in Poland, behind the Iron Curtain.

Another film being shown by John Birch Society members to groups around the state is entitled "Operation Abolition."

It is a moving picture about the student demonstrations in protest of the House Committee on Un-American Activities hearings in San Francisco last May. The film maintains that the riots were led by known Communists.

The original film runs 45 minutes. A shortened (23-min-)



(AP Wirephoto)

ROBERT H. W. WELCH JR.
Birch Society Founder

ute) version was shown to about a dozen Richmond businessmen at a private showing here the other day by R. B. Crawford, president of the Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties.

GROUP ENTHUSIASTIC

The group was enthusiastic about the film. Suggestions by several of the men included: (1) showing the movie to students in junior and senior high schools, (2) obtaining the Mosque for a public showing, (3) showing the film on a local television station.

The group agreed that the film clearly showed that the mob action was touched off by Communists trying to disrupt and discredit the work of the House committee.

Meanwhile, the two anti-Communist films have run into trouble in at least two states.

In Michigan, Gov. John B. Swainson last week ordered the continuance of public showings of "Operation Abolition" and "Communism on the Map" by the state police subversive activities squad.

The Associated Press quoted Swainson as saying the films "have been viewed by several members of my staff who confirm criticism that the films are inaccurate and distorted and thus harm, rather than advance, the purpose of an intelligent anti-Communist program."

Barron said local chapters in Virginia and around the country are attempting to carry out four objectives set for March in the national program: (He said

the same objectives are being continued in April.)

They are:

- To alert members of the society not to buy goods manufactured behind the Iron Curtain.
- To support the House Committee on Un-American Activities.
- To work toward the repeal of the federal income tax and the government getting out of much of the activity the society feels is private enterprise.
- To work toward the impeachment of Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren.

Barron said the society does not accuse Warren of being a communist, but contends that Warren has voted 36 times to "support the communist point of view."

SHOWING OF FILM

Barron said one of the primary activities of local chapters in Virginia has been showing to various groups the film, "Operation Abolition," the anti-Communist movie issued by the House Un-American Activities Committee. He said society members in Alexandria also have been fighting against the suppression of information by government officials.

Local chapters in Virginia meet at least once a month and each chapter is furnished with a small library of conservative books, Barron said. Dues are \$1 a month for women and \$2 a month for men.

Barron, a retired State De-

historian, is devoting his work of the past 10 years in Virginia, Washington and the southern part of Maryland. He operates out of an office in his home at 5814 Hanover ave. in Springfield, near Washington.

'DELUGED' WITH MAIL

He said he has been "deluged" with mail from Virginians for information about how to join the organization.

The slogan of the national group is, "Less government, more individual responsibility and a better world to live in."

Nationally, the John Birch Society was organized in 1958 by Robert H. W. Welch Jr. of Belmont, Mass., a retired candy manufacturer.

"The John Birch Society is to be a monolithic body," said Welch, 61, in a blue book of the organization's doctrine. Its announced purpose is to fight and destroy communism within the United States. Its membership includes able and patriotic men.

NOT NECESSARILY SO

But the society's methods, its specific aims and its judgments of some American leaders have led other able and patriotic citizens to denounce the society as going far beyond the tactics of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

The elder Andrews said in Richmond recently that state and federal officials are "not only not helping the society but are actively opposing it."

Speaking of Welch's 80,000-word work entitled, "The Politician," Andrews said it is not required reading for Birch society members and that some members disagree with Welch's conclusions.

Welch charged in the writing that former President Eisenhower was "a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy." Andrews said he didn't agree with Welch's conclusions about Mr. Eisenhower.

NAMED FOR MISSIONARY

The John Birch Society is named for a young fundamentalist Baptist missionary from Georgia who served as an intelligence officer in China during World War II and was killed 10 days after V-J day.

nese Communists when he died.

Welch never heard of Birch until after his death, but he has researched and written his life story. Welch has memorialized Birch as "probably the first American casualty in that Third World War, between Communists and the Free World, which is still being waged against us."

Inez Rebb

Let J. Edgar Do It, Says She

IF THERE IS ONE THREAT that the United States cannot tolerate or endure at this critical juncture in its history, it is the divisive tactics of a self-appointed group who cry "Unclean!" and hint treason on the part of any citizen who dares to think differently from this self-nominated elite.

This nation is in a time of troubles so that it cannot afford the folly or the schism inherent in the revival of "McCarthyism" raised to the nth degree.

The Communist threat to this country has never been more grave or more determined. But the overwhelming threat to our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor is not and never has been within this nation.

That steady, relentless threat to this nation and its citizens is from without, and has been, since the growth of Communist power assumed world-wide proportions. With Communist pressure growing and probing every minute, with that pressure leapfrogging the Atlantic to land only 90 miles off the American mainland this nation cannot afford or permit the divisive tactics of the extreme right any more than it can submit to devious tactics of the extreme left.

* * *

IF THERE IS ONE TIME in its history when the nation must stand united in all its strength, it is now. We waged World War II to lick a group of "supermen" and the idea that such an elite could exist. Surely, we are not now about to engage in the folly of allowing a group of self-appointed supermen, whether they be enlisted in the John Birch Society or the White Citizen Councils, to accuse as Communists and Communist tools all who disagree with them and their aims by lot or tittle.

As a nation, we are just now recovering from the terrible, divisive tactics of McCarthyism. If the American public and the American Congress allow its revival in an even

more brutal and arrogant form, then the only sound conclusion is that our country's boast of literacy is a fake and the national I. Q. is nonexistent.

Are we citizens prepared to go through another futile, destructive period of secret informers, or anonymous telephone pressures, or covert threats and surreptitious challenges to a man's place in the community and his power to earn his bread?

We cannot afford any group in the United States that takes unto itself police powers, with its corollary power to punish those that incur its dislike. We cannot afford the luxury of groups that use the threat of economic boycott and social ostracism to gain their mean ends and divide the citizenry.

This is a time when "a house divided against itself cannot stand" never was more meaningful, nor "in union there is strength."

* * *

IT IS UNTHINKABLE that the United States has so little regard for the rule of law that it is willing to abrogate its duty to fight subversion, from right, left, front or center, to private groups. I believe the Justice Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Congress and its committees are still amply capable of doing their duty in this field.

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that the John Birch Society, now crying for the blood of Chief Justice Earl Warren, will also soon be demanding the head of J. Edgar Hoover. It seems doubtful if Hoover endeared himself to the Birch-rodgers when he recently stated, in the April law enforcement bulletin, his displeasure with "vigilante action" by citizens opposed to communism.

Such is my faith in Hoover that I believe, in a crisis, the head of the FBI could jail within six hours every important Communist in the country. That is work for experts, not for rock-heads who believe that other men who are not, as they are, ipso facto, Judases reincarnate.

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date: APR 10 1961

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Author:

Re:

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APR 11 1961	
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Why Probe Scurrilous Drivel?

THE TIMES-DISPATCH was, we believe, the first newspaper in this area, and one of the first in the United States, to comment on the preposterous pronouncements of the founder of something called the John Birch Society, concerning PRESIDENT EISENHOWER and other public figures.

We raised an editorial eyebrow practically to the ceiling on August 9, 1960, over the incredible nonsense uttered by this man, ROBERT H. W. WELCH JR., a native North Carolinian and Harvard graduate who had led in establishing the society some two years previously.

Recently the John Birch Society has been much in the news, and there has been a great deal of comment in the press. Some of our "liberal" friends rushed to demand a congressional inquiry.

These demands grew out of such irrational declarations as that of FOUNDER WELCH that Mr. EISENHOWER is a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy," and that "treason" was the only word for some of his actions. Mr. WELCH prides himself on being violently anti-Communist, and the society fights what it terms "pro-Communist" activities.

After a considerable amount of secrecy concerning the make-up of the society, and mysterious references to "cells," Mr. WELCH himself has now asked for a congressional investigation. Furthermore, he has promised that neither he nor any other member of the organization will

take the Fifth Amendment in such an inquiry—an impressive pronouncement.

But there is no occasion for any congressional inquiry at this time into the John Birch Society. Such horrendous drivel as its founder has been guilty of isn't worth an investigation.

Furthermore, some of the "liberals" now say they see no occasion for an inquiry. Among these is Americans for Democratic Action.

However, it should not pass unnoticed that some of the very "liberals" who wanted to investigate the John Birch Society have been shuddering dolefully over the House Un-American Activities Committee, on the theory that it has been harassing honest patriots. These "liberals" blow their tops when efforts are made by that committee to expose the Reds who have been boring into our government as agents of the Communist conspiracy, but they wanted to mount an investigation of the John Birch Society on the basis of a few screwball pronouncements by its founder. (Since the House of Representatives voted recently, 412 to 6, in favor of *increasing* the appropriation of the Un-American Activities Committee, instead of abolishing it, the attitude of Congress seems obvious.)

As we say, there has been no showing that an investigation of the John Birch Society is called for. If the organization should ever do anything overtly dangerous, there will be plenty of time for a congressional probe.

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date: APR 10 1961

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABN

Author:

Re:

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DIRECTOR, FBI

4/14/61

SAC, RICHMOND (100-9991)

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING -
INTERNAL SECURITY

Re SAC Letters 59-13 and 60-5 which instruct the Bureau be notified in the event any chapters of this society are organized within a field division territory.

The Richmond, Virginia, newspaper, the Richmond News Leader, in its issue of April 10, 1961, contained an article on captioned organization and reported comments made by one BRYTON BARRON of Springfield, Virginia, identified in the article as full-time field representative for the organization in Virginia.

In a previous issue of the Richmond Times Dispatch newspaper, BARRON was identified as a former State Department Historian and he advised that chapters of this organization had been established in Alexandria, Fairfax County and Charlottesville, Virginia.

The above is submitted for the information and completion of the Bureau file.

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① - Richmond
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STW

'Smears' by Birch

Group Leader Scored

WASHINGTON, April 12 (AP) — Sen. McGee (D-Wyo.) told the Senate Wednesday that Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, had cast "reckless slurs and smears" against Protestant ministers.

McGee denounced as ridiculous Welch's statement in a Los Angeles speech Tuesday night that "Protestant ministers do not become Communists — but Communists do become Protestant ministers."

Welch said about 7,000 of 200,000 ministers are what he called "comsymps" (Communist sympathizers).

In comment on Welch's speech, McGee told the Senate, "This is another of the kind of reckless slurs and smears this man and his society are visiting on respected segments. Nothing could be more ridiculous. Nothing could suit the Communist purpose more than these charges."

McGee said Welch's statements as head of the militantly anti-Communist and conservative group "raise serious questions about the motive of this man and his society."

The senator said the society is made up of "twisted, distorted, sick people" who see Communist conspirators all

about them and are "afraid of America."

Sen. Young (R-ND) told his colleagues that he has been receiving many letters condemning him for his criticisms of the Birch Society. He said the letters followed a pattern.

"According to them if you criticize the Birch Society you are assumed to be some kind of Communist or Communist dupe," Young said.

Young said that many members of the society do not seem to believe that Welch wrote a book in which he described former President Eisenhower as a knowing agent of the Communists.

For that reason, Young got permission to put in the Congressional Record 13 pages of the book in which he said attacks were made on Eisenhower, his brother, Milton Eisenhower and late Secretary of State Dulles.

The Senate internal security subcommittee, in a meeting Wednesday, discussed whether to investigate the society, but deferred a decision.

Welch, retired Belmont, Mass., candy manufacturer who founded the society in 1958, urged in a telegram on April 1 that the subcommittee investigate the organization.

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date: APR 13 1961

Editor: VIRGINIUS BABNEY

Author:

Re:

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BIRCH SOCIETY LEADER

Welch Repeats Charge Of Infiltration by Reds

DALLAS, Tex., April 17. (AP) — Robert Welch told a mink-and-ermine crowd of 1,200 last night that Russia has no reason to start a war with the United States because this country could be taken "without a single shot" by Communist infiltration.

The founder of the controversial John Birch Society, speaking from a copyrighted text, renewed charges made earlier that the Communists have had a hand in every major U. S. decision since 1946.

He told an audience made up largely of residents from a fashionable North Dallas Park Cities area, a conservative stronghold, that the Reds operate on "the principle of reversal," by using slogans that bring an opposite result and replace good with evil.

"By the liberation of a country, such as Cuba, Communists mean the imposing on Cuba of a tyrannical Communist dictatorship," he said. "The whole foreign aid program is an example. For years we have been taken steadily down the road to communism by steps supposedly designed and presented to the American people as ways of fighting communism."

Welch asserted the Communists helped devise slogans that won a third term for the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt and prevented the nomination of the late Sen. Robert A. Taft at the 1952 Republican convention.

"Had Taft been nominated, he would have won by an overwhelming majority and he would have set communism back a whole generation," he told his applauding audience.

As photographers sought to take pictures of Welch after the speech, a Welch supporter poured a pitcher of ice water over a newsreel man. Another Welch fan pushed around a newsreelman's camera and snapped wires to the sound unit.

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
Richmond, Virginia

Date: APR 17 1961

Editor: JOHN J. KILPATRICK

Author:

Re:

BUFILE:

RH FILE:

100-9991-40

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 18 1961	
FBI — RICHMOND	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Conservatives Call for 3d Party

CHICAGO, April 17. — (P) — A group of conservatives, including supporters of the controversial John Birch Society, ended a three-day meeting over the week end with a call for a third political party.

After the final session Saturday night, 18 of the leaders issued a statement of principles. One of them, Kent Courtney of New Orleans, termed it "the Chicago declaration of conservative principles."

It proposed abolition of the income tax, liberation of Cuba, withdrawal from the Geneva disarmament talks, discontinuation of farm subsidies, a reduction in the size of the federal government and a foreign aid cutback.

About 150 persons attended the final meeting, a rally sponsored by the Independent American forum, a periodical published by Courtney in New Orleans.

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
Richmond, Virginia

Date: APR 17 1961

Editor: JOHN J. KILPATRICK

Author:

Re:

BUFILE:

RH FILE:

100-9991-41

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 18 1961	
FBI — RICHMOND	

SAC, RICHMOND

4/24/61

SA RANDOLPH E. TROW

CP, USA
SOUTHERN REGION
RICHMOND DIVISION
IS - C

On April 17, 1961, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished the writer with a written report prepared by him April 13, 1961, concerning activities occurring April 8 and 9, 1961.

b2
b7D

"4/13/61

"Subject; Actions Taken/
National Negro Commission Meeting/
Communist Party U.S.A.
New York, N.Y.
4/8-9/61

"1-'Main Points consider for Party to Work on;
A-Build Negro American Labor Council (NALC.)

B-Work on Un-employed question /30 hour week.'

"2-'To consider organizing Christian Leadership
Councils throughout the country, similar to
Martin Luther King organization.'

"3-'Work to destroy Extreme Right organizations such
as John Birch Society, American Nazis Party.'

"4-'Consider proposal on Rebuilding Party in South.'

"/s/ Barry"

5 Richmond
(1 - 100-9826 NALC)
(1 - 100-7606 Negro)
(1 - 157-93 ANP)
(1 - 100- J. Birch Soc.)
(1 - 100-7611 Religion)

RET:iwp
(5)
iwp

100-9991-42

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 26 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Copies of this memorandum have been prepared for all individuals, organizations and control files mentioned herein.

The informant's original report has been filed as

b2
b7D

DIRECTOR, FBI

5/2/61

SAC, RICHMOND (100-10040) ATTENTION: DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE
DIVISION

PATRICK HENRY SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING

The purpose of this letter is to advise the Bureau of an organization being formed in Richmond, Virginia for the purpose of combating Communism. This group presently plans to call itself the Patrick Henry Society.

BACKGROUND

By letters dated 1/20/61 captioned ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR., INFORMATION CONCERNING - INTERNAL SECURITY, and 2/1/61 captioned JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY - INFORMATION CONCERNING - INTERNAL SECURITY, Bureau File 62-104401, the Bureau was advised of the activities of LON BACKMAN, a news reporter for Radio Station WRVA, Richmond, and T. COLEMAN ANDREWS, JR., a member of the Virginia House of Delegates representing Richmond and son of the former U.S. Commissioner of Internal Revenue, in alerting Richmond citizens to the danger of communism. These two individuals have been accepting speaking engagements before various civic groups and talking on communism. ANDREWS, JR. has become identified with the JOHN BIRCH Society. As far as is known to me, BACKMAN has not joined this organization.

The result has been a very noticeable renaissance of interest in the question of communism in Richmond.

Both BACKMAN and ANDREWS have called at the office and requested source material on the question of communism. Both are interested in the current communist picture in the State of Virginia. They have been advised of the confidential nature of information in our files and that the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the FBI as an investigative agency do not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, publication or organization.

2 - Bureau
1 - Norfolk
2 - Richmond (1 - 100-10040
(1) - 100-9991

EEB:GTC
(5)

100-9991-43

P

By letter dated 2/7/61 captioned, PATRIOTISM FOSTER, "WHAT YOU CAN DO TO FIGHT COMMUNISM", NEWSPAPER MAT, the Bureau was requested to furnish twenty-five copies of the printed poster because the Richmond Junior Chamber of Commerce is planning an educational program for the purpose of alerting the public to the communist menace. This letter was written in response to a visit by CHARLES E. ERHART, JR., 2801 Laflin Place, Richmond, Virginia. In Richmond letter of 2/7/61 the Bureau was requested to advise whether distribution of this poster by the Junior Chamber of Commerce on a volume basis is permissible and no commitments were made to the Junior Chamber of Commerce as to our supplying the poster in bulk.

On 4/28/61 a Mr. GRIFFITH telephonically contacted me and advised that he was one of six men who were interested in forming a group to tell the story of the threat of communism. He asked for advice or guidance by the FBI in this venture. I told Mr. GRIFFITH that the FBI could furnish no such advice or guidance and he then requested an opportunity to visit the office and advise of the aims of his group. An appointment was made for him to call at the office at 1:00 P.M. on 5/2/61. He stated he would probably be accompanied by a Mr. BISHOP. I told Mr. GRIFFITH that the FBI would be glad to talk with him and obtain any information he desired to furnish.

On 4/29/61 Richmond was furnished a copy of Bureau letter of 4/28/61 to Mr. H. R. GRIFFITH, JR., 2206 Bonnie Dale Road, Richmond 29, Virginia, together with a copy of GRIFFITH's letter of 4/21/61. GRIFFITH's letter of 4/21/61 was signed in his capacity as Chairman, Committee on Americanism, West End Junior Chamber of Commerce, and stated that that group was initiating an Americanism Program aimed at awakening our citizenry to the threat of communism in the United States today. The letter states that the program is based on a lecture-type presentation to civic associations, women's clubs, service clubs or any other group that would listen. He requested the pamphlet entitled "Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality" dated December, 1959. He requested information as to how to obtain the pamphlet in quantity and suggestions or guidance relating to the promotion of the JayCee program. Bulet of 4/29/61 in response stated that the pamphlet could be disseminated only in reasonable quantities and requested information as to the number of copies desired.

On 5/2/61 HERBERT GRIFFITH called at the office alone. He stated that he had recently written the Bureau and asked for a quantity of the pamphlet, "Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality," had a day or two ago received a reply from the Director and intended to write in and ask for this pamphlet in bulk. He said that he and eight others, ranging in age from 30 to 54, plan to form a group and they tentatively plan to call it the Patrick Henry Society. The purpose of the group is to arouse an awareness of the problem of the communist menace. He indicated that an attendance at a lecture by T. COLEMAN ANDREWS, JR. on Communism had suggested this course of activity to the group. He indicated that at least one member of his group was a member of the John Birch Society, and that to date the two sources of information concerning the communist problem have been material obtained from the John Birch Society and from an Army Seminar conducted at Norfolk. He indicated that the group was composed of Army and Naval Reserve Officers and it was hoped through their sources they might obtain data. He said the group does not subscribe to the purposes of the John Birch Society as they feel it is "radical", citing as examples a recent written proposal of the John Birch Society to back NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV in his effort to remove the UN from the United States and also to oust DAG HAMMARSKJOLD as Secretary General of the UN. He said that while they intend to talk to civic groups such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the like, they envision talking to any group on "a grass root level" that would listen to them, such as labor organizations, domestics, etc.

He said that the normal program put on by T. COLEMAN ANDREWS, JR. is a film which was made in Kansas, the name of which he does not recall, that ANDREWS introduces himself, then runs the film, then makes a very short talk pointing out the world-wide communist menace. GRIFFITH said that this approach is fine except that it leaves everyone cliff hanging and proposes no specifics. The Patrick Henry Society intends to go a step further and suggest that the listeners who note communist activity, write letters to the Editor, to their Senators, to J. EDGAR HOOVER, or others who might take action. He indicated that the Society is purchasing a condensed forty-minute version of the film made in Kansas being used by ANDREWS. They intend to run this film, pass out copies of the "Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality," by the Director and data obtained from the Seminar held in Norfolk.

GRIFFITH was advised that the data in the files of the FBI is confidential and that we could furnish his group no advice or counsel. He was advised of the desire of the FBI of having any person report to the FBI any information indicating subversive activity. He was also cautioned in the activities of this group not to indicate that the FBI either countenanced or opposed the proposed action of his group.

COMMENT

From his conversation it appears that GRIFFITH is employed by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. He is a young, good looking, intelligent and obviously sincere individual. There is no question in my mind but what GRIFFITH at least is well motivated. The objection to the formation of such a society, of course, is the possibility that it may lead to abuses and excesses of patriotism. After talking with him, I have the impression that the Society intends to proceed as planned.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Bureau not furnish this group pamphlets, re-prints of the Director's speeches, or other data that in any way would identify it with the FBI or indicate in any way an FBI condonement of the activities of this proposed organization.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Richmond, Virginia

May 17, 1961

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 03-17-2009

COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
SOUTHERN REGION

The Communist Party, USA, its sub-divisions and subsidiaries have been cited by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, reported that a meeting of the Virginia Delegation of the Communist Party met at twelve noon on April 22, 1961, in the apartment of Sylvia Hall, 526 West 113th Street, New York City, with Gus Hall, General Secretary of the Communist Party, USA. Present at the meeting were Gus Hall, Sylvia Hall, both of New York, and Louis Kalb, Mary Kalb, Archie Nester, Juanita Nester, and Clarence James of Virginia. At the start of this meeting, Gus Hall gave a report on the status of the Communist Party (CP) in which he stated that during the time of the attacks against the Party and the "revisionist days" they had found themselves completely disorganized and at one time almost broken up as a party. He related the "revisionists" took their toll as did the all out attacks by the enemy resulting in their not only having to fight for survival as an organization, but fighting among themselves over policy to maintain themselves as a Marxist-Leninist Organization. He reported they had overcome part of this situation and our faithful members had held together with a smaller organization being built which is now on the upgrade. He pointed out that this group as yet is not a legal party and they still have to function as an illegal organization. He related that in this fight for survival they had lost sight of what they had in the South and that he did not know until recently that there was any kind of Party organization still functioning in the South.

3-Bureau (RM)
1-Atlanta (RM)
2-Baltimore (RM)
1-Birmingham (RM)
1-Charlotte (RM)
1-Dallas (RM)
1-Jacksonville (RM)

1-Knoxville (RM)
1-Louisville (RM)
1-Memphis (RM)
1-Miami (RM)
1-Mobile (RM)
2-Newark (RM)
1-New Orleans (RM)

8-New York (RM)
1-Norfolk (RM)
2-Omaha (RM)
1-Savannah (RM)
1-Tampa (RM)
20-Richmond
RET:lmc
(51) *lmc*

100-9991-44

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
SOUTHERN REGION

Gus Hall also reported concerning the youth and colleges wherein he described what he called an objective condition known as a "flow". He related this was a flow of interest toward the left and Socialism, but he felt there could be an equal flow to the right in opposition thereto as has been evidenced by some ultra-right organizations such as the resurrection of American Nazis. He reported that they have very promising developments in the colleges and among the youth and pointed out that in Iowa State University over three hundred students are organized into a Marxist debate and study group and that they have three Communists located there who are leading this group. Hall pointed out the students were very interested in Socialism and they have found out that wherever they can recruit, at least one professor, the students will follow. He stated this is true in many other colleges where they have similar groups.

Mary Kalb related that the reason for requesting this meeting with Gus Hall was because of the fact they have felt for a long time that the Party in the South has been neglected. She related that when Clarence James had attended a meeting of the National Negro Commission of the CP, and had reported that a delegate at this Commission had pointed out that there were some differences of opinion within the National Committee at the CP as to whether the Party could be built in the South at this time, they had thought that it was time to try and to something about it. She stated that they had asked for this meeting in order to try and get some action. She pointed out that in her own personal experience over the years, many of the national officials of the CP have agreed with them on the importance of the South, but have never done anything about it and that they in the South felt divorced from the Party.

Gus Hall advised that he agreed with her that they in the South had lacked attention and he also agreed with her on the importance of the South, but that until recently after some discussion with other comrades, he had not realized there was any Party organization in the South. He inquired as to what it was southern people wished them to do.

RE: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
SOUTHERN REGION

Louis Kalb related that they had made some proposals for this meeting as well as several points for discussion which proposals would be presented by CIARENCE JAMES.

CIARENCE JAMES related that they had found in the South one of the most important areas for struggle and problems peculiar to the South, but affecting the entire nation. He felt these problems must be solved if they were to have Socialism in this country. He related there were new objective conditions arising in the South wherein the Negro people have stirred the nation with their militant struggle for liberation. He related that there is a loosely connected movement taking on the appearance of a broad united front action in the South evidenced by the positions and actions being taken by church organizations, liberal forces, etc. He pointed out that it was from these developments that he based their conclusions that there are grounds for Marxist ideas and influence. He advised that in order to develop the needed unity between the Negro-white, and Negro-labor, they must reactivate the Party in the South as it is the only force which can bring about this unity to step up the struggles by the Negro and labor organizations. He advised that they seek at this meeting to project a realistic viewpoint whereby the Party can be built in the South. He made the following proposals for discussion:

1. A need for a full time organizer based in the South.
2. Meetings of the Southern Regional Committee be resumed.
3. An immediate assessment be put on the entire CP of ten per cent of Party dues to cover the finance of rebuilding the Party in the South.
4. Assistance be provided for the Party in the South on literature distribution.
5. A weekly column on the south printed in "The Worker".

RE: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
SOUTHERN REGION

"The Worker" is an eastcoast Communist weekly newspaper.

Archie Nester stated at this point that he would further develop the need for work in the South by stating that the Bourgeois Revolution was never completed in the South which must be done if they are to bring Socialism to America. He pointed out that the South is in a developing stage wherein it is fast changing to a urban-industrial composition. He felt the unorganized must be organized and full rights given to the Negro people. He stated the South offers a real challenge and the CP must develop as the vanguard leaders, or the South will turn to Fascism. He felt this was already fast developing with various organizations gaining a foothold.

Mary Kalb stated that they feel that sending a northerner on a hit or miss basis to the South will not accomplish much, that this organizer must be based in the South, but still have ties in the North with the National Committee. She felt that the organizer must live in the South, read our southern papers and understand what is happening in the southern picture from day to day. She related that they felt this person should be a member of the National Committee, the National Negro Commission, and have authority to carry out the responsibility in the South. She felt that she had thought they should have a southern Commission in the National Committee similar to the National Negro Commission or the Farm Commission.

Louis Kalb related he felt that they should have a pamphlet of interest to the southern worker and pointed out that what they wanted on literature assistance was leaflets and pamphlets printed on important issues and that the Party in the South could then do the mailing. He pointed out that

RE: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
SOUTHERN REGION

this request was due to the limited size and the difficulty in getting this material out while it was still in issue. He felt they should also have something concerning the Cuban situation.

Gus Hall stated that he agreed with all of them on their proposals and would like to state money is no object and it could be raised. He advised that the real problem, however, was getting qualified personnel. He pointed out that since the struggles the Party went through, it has been extremely difficult to get people to do anything and that they were having a problem obtaining a district organizer for New England as well as the northwest.

Mary Kalb inquired as to the possibilities of such people as George Meyers, Ted Bassett or Joe North.

Gus Hall advised that Ted Bassett was not suitable as he is a lecturer and instructor, but not a district organizer. He advised that Joe North is currently in Cuba. He related that George Meyers would be satisfactory as he is very sincere and they have in the past tried to move him up North as a district organizer, but his wife would not hear of his leaving Baltimore. He related that she had had a bitter experience while Meyers was in prison wherein no one from the Party paid any attention to her while George was away and had put her in "deep isolation" because of fear.

Mary Kalb remarked that perhaps she would consider moving to Richmond where she would have other women comrades to work with.

Gus Hall related that this might be worth trying. He pointed out incidentally that he wanted the Virginia Delegation to "square" this meeting with Meyers so that he would not think they had gone over his head as they did not

RE: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
SOUTHERN REGION

want to hurt his feelings.

Mary Kalb agreed to this and related that apparently there was some mix-up in the arrangements for this meeting which had already been made through Sylvia Hall.

At 2:00 p.m., on April 22, 1961, the meeting adjourned for lunch and during lunch Gus Hall related an incident which had recently happened to him. He advised that James Jackson had come to see him at the office and told him that there was a woman who wanted to see him, "Hall", and refused to talk to anyone but Hall. Gus Hall related that he went down to see this individual and found a poorly dressed elderly white woman. He inquired as to why she wanted to see him and how she had come to choose him and this woman had replied that she had been reading about him and felt she had to come and see him. She told him that she agreed with him and through her reading had found out about his work and, therefore, wanted to give him a donation. She stated it was not much now as she did not want to attract attention by withdrawing too much from the bank at one time. She informed Hall that she lives "back in the hills of Georgia" and does not have anyone dependent on her and consequently Hall would be getting another donation soon as she wished to leave what she has for his work. Hall stated that she would not give him her name or address, but had slipped a roll of bills into his coat pocket informing him he would hear from her later on. Hall stated that he had not given the money much though at the moment as he was due to attend a meeting and did not again think of it until he had returned home. He stated that he withdrew the roll of bills from his pocket and told his wife that he had received a donation and gave it to her to count thinking it would be not over \$10. He stated to their surprise when his wife counted the money they discovered they had \$5,000. Hall stated that he has had their lawyer draw up a paper for this woman so she can carry out her promise of leaving the Party her money when she passes on.

RE: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
SOUTHERN REGION

After lunch this meeting resumed with further discussion on available personnel who might be available as a worker in the South. Gus Hall related in this respect that they could arrange for a covering for an organizer with employment inasmuch as they have an ex-comrade in New Jersey who has plenty of money and who would be glad to hire a person, requiring him to work only part time and arrange for other persons to work in their place when they have to be absent. He stated this individual got a start buying broken eggs from packing companies and selling them in bulk form to bakeries at a discount. He also stated that this individual has built up quite a business and is willing to cooperate in any way he can to help the Party. Hall stated they could "cover" George Meyers in this manner if he should work as an organizer in the South.

Louis Kalb stated that they have a possibility for an organizer in a young woman who lost her husband recently, Clara Saba, who is good and originally organized the CP in Roanoke, Virginia. Kalb also stated there was a possibility of developing an organizer from among their own southern people as they have some good material, but that they would need training.

Gus Hall replied that he felt they could work out something and that Clara Saba does have possibilities. As to training, he advised that they had recently had two sessions, but had to cancel the last one inasmuch as Walter Winchell had managed to find out about it and publicized the time and place. He inquired as to where the Virginia Delegation had in mind for the meetings of the Southern Regional Committee and Mary Kalb pointed out that she felt as did others that Baltimore would be an ideal place as it is a mid point between the North and the South.

RE: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
SOUTHERN REGION

Gus Hall pointed out that it would be difficult for some of the members of the National Committee and particularly himself to go to Baltimore as he is currently under indictment and has to get permission to even go to Brooklyn. He felt that it would not be good for him to get permission to go to Baltimore for a meeting with "non-open" Communists as this would expose them.

Mary Kalb stated that they could come to New York as these meetings would not be held too often.

Gus Hall stated that if necessary they could set up in Chicago for people from Texas and other far-south states.

The source related that Gus Hall took notes on the various proposals and decisions and stated that he felt they could get done what the Virginia Delegation desired. He promised to send leaflets on the Cuban situation for distribution and to get in touch with those persons involved in youth work to have them contact the Virginia people on any actions in youth work in the South.

Mary Kalb related that as a result of being ignored by the National Officers of the Party during recent visits to Virginia, she felt that they were out of the Party in the South. She pointed out these people had not even come to them to discuss the situation except Daniel Rubin, National Secretary for youth of the CP. She stated that they had insisted he discuss the people he desired to see and the actions that could be taken at the time he was in Virginia. She stated that she could not see rebuilding the Party in this manner.

Gus Hall stated that he agreed with her and hoped to insure that when anybody else comes down they would work with the Party People in Virginia.

RE: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
SOUTHERN REGION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The meeting adjourned with the understanding that Gus Hall would communicate with George Meyers and furnish him the decisions on the various proposals gone over at this meeting and that Meyers would in turn advise the party people in Virginia.

THIS IS LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI, AND NEITHER
IT NOR ITS CONTENTS ARE TO BE DISTRIBUTED
OUTSIDE THE AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 5-17-61

FROM : SAC, RICHMOND

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
SOUTHERN REGION
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY 65179 DMH/SZ

Re Richmond radiogram to Bureau and New York
dated 4-21-61.

3-Bureau (RM) (Enc. 5) (100-3-105) (20)-Richmond
1-Atlanta (RM) (Enc. 1) (1- 100-7601 Org.)
2-Baltimore (RM) (Enc. 2) (1- 100-7390 L. Kalb)
(1- J. Green) (1- 100-5638 M. Kalb)
(1- G. Meyers) (1- 100-7623 A. Nester)
1-Birmingham (RM) (Enc. 1) (1- 100-7625 J. Nester)
1-Charlotte (RM) (Enc. 1) (1- 100-9674 C. James)
1-Dallas (RM) (Enc. 1) (1- 157-93 ANP)
1-Jacksonville (RM) (Enc. 1) (1- 100-7607 Youth)
1-Knoxville (RM) (Enc. 1) (1- 100-8891 ECLC)
1-Louisville (RM) (Enc. 1) (1- 100-9920 J. Green)
1-Memphis (RM) (Enc. 1) (1- 100-7606 Negro)
1-Miami (RM) (Enc. 1) (1- 100-7406 Pam. & Pub.)
1-Mobile (RM) (Enc. 1) (1- 100-9991 John Birch Soc.)
2-Newark (RM) (Enc. 2) (1- 100-8669 G. Meyers)
1-New Orleans (RM) (Enc. 1) (1- 100-8201 R. Handman)
8-New York (RM) (Enc. 1) (1- 100-2657 J. E. Jackson)
(1- 100-131666) (1- 100-5798 C. Saba)
(1- 100-74560) (Funds) (1- 100-7359 Funds)
(1- 100-100351) (Sylvia Hall) (1- 100-9826 NALC)
(1- 100-16785) (J. E. Jackson) (1- 100-801)
(1- 100-) (Gus Hall)
(1- 100-80644) (Youth)
(1- 100-81675) (Pam. and Pub.)
(1- 100-80640) (Negro)
1-Norfolk (RM) (Enc. 1)
2-Omaha (RM) (Enc. 2)
1-Savannah (RM) (Enc. 1)
1-Tampa (RM) (Enc. 1)
RET:lme
(51)

100-9991-45

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <u>S</u>	FILED <u>S</u>
MAY 23 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

RH 100-801

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b7D

Enclosed herewith as indicated are copies of a letterhead memo setting forth the results of the New York meeting which was attended by [redacted]

Identity of Source	Date and/or Description of Activity	Date Furnished	Agent	Location
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[redacted]

4-22-61

4-28-61

RANDOLPH [redacted]
E. TROW (Written)

b2
b7D

This memorandum has been classified ~~confidential~~ as information contained therein could conceivably disclose the source thereof and compromise the future effectiveness of this informant.

Birch Aide Resigns In Protest

The former local coordinator of the John Birch Society for the Washington area said this morning that, to the best of his knowledge no one has been named to replace him since his resignation in protest of a "gag rule."

Bryton Barron of 5814 Hanover Ave., Springfield, said he resigned to protest "dictatorial and repressive trends" in the conservative society.

He said his resignation as coordinator will probably mean he will be also dropped as a member of the group, but that he has not been informed of this yet. Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass., the founder and leader of the group, has accepted his resignation, Barron said.

THE RESIGNING coordinator said the society is now "quite different from what we had originally," and that the "home office" objected to his comments to other members and to the press on society affairs.

"If you can't criticize, how can your statements mean anything," he said, adding that he was told "that I must not write to the home office to question certain new trends within the society."

Barron formerly was employed by the State Department, but says he left that agency in 1958 after a disagreement over "suppression" of the Yalta Papers.

For [unclear]
Newspaper: *NORTHERN VA*

Date: *SUN 5/22/61*

Editor: *R.B. FARQUHAR*

Author:

RE:

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

BUFILE:

RHFILE:

100-9991-46

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 24 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Interview of [redacted] USMC

On 9 May 1961, the following information was made available to this office by [redacted] 057139, Junior School, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia. On 21 April 1961, [redacted] Virginia, employed at the Army-Air Force Exchange Service, The Pentagon, Washington 25, D. C., contacted [redacted] at their home, [redacted] Springfield, Virginia, and stated to [redacted] substantially as follows:

[redacted] is a member of the John Birch Society and advocated a government structural change. [redacted] believed Congress's legislative powers should be eliminated but, could continue to exist for protocol reasons. This, he felt would abolish red tape and would allow quick governmental action. He advocated individual central power and felt force would be utilized to bring about these government structural changes, if necessary. Subject brought out that Cardinal CUSHING was a member of the John Birch Society; however, it was felt subject was aware the [redacted] were of the Catholic faith. Through [redacted] attempted to solicit Captain [redacted] and fellow USMC officers' views concerning Laos and the Cuban situation. It was apparent to [redacted] [redacted] was attempting to solicit the [redacted] for possible membership in the John Birch Society. When asked by [redacted] what [redacted] thought of their discussion, she asked if he were serious, to which he replied, "yes" he was serious, and then she told him, he was a nut. To this he took offense and, as of this date, has not tried to contact Captain [redacted] or his wife.

b6
b7C

1

Enclosure (1)

100-9991-47

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 27 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Enclosure (1)

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

CODE 06E/JS/EAC

SER: 1911

24 MAY 1961

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FROM: OFFICER IN CHARGE, INTELLIGENCE OFFICE, POTOMAC RIVER NAVAL COMMAND
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
TO: ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2, MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
SUBJ: [REDACTED], SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA

ENCL: (1) INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] USMC

1. ENCLOSURE (1), PROVIDED BY THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2, MARINE
CORPS SCHOOLS, QUANTICO, VIRGINIA, IDENTIFIES SUBJECT AS AN EMPLOYEE AT
THE [REDACTED] THE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.,
AND A MEMBER OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, AND IS FORWARDED AS A MATTER UNDER
YOUR COGNIZANCE.

2. IT IS NOTED THAT CAPT [REDACTED] WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE 1ST MACHINE
DIVISION, CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA, ON OR ABOUT 1 JUNE 1961.

COPY TO:
DIT (W/ENCL)
FBI, RICHMOND (W/ENCL)

L. F. KENNEY
By direction

John Kenney
100-9991

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 27 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

100-9991-48
(FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Birch Society Official Quits in Dictator Row

By the Associated Press

A Virginian announced today he has resigned as an official of the John Birch Society because "dictatorial and repressive trends have developed" recently in the militantly conservative group.

Bryton Barron of nearby Springfield, Va., a former State department employee, said in a statement he had served as co-ordinator for Virginia and the District of Columbia since last autumn. But, he said, he is quitting "to sound a warning against a new trend in the society's operations."

Scores "Brash Young Man"

Mr. Barron added that his resignation has been accepted by Robert Welch, retired Belmont (Mass.), candy manufacturer, who is founder and head of the society.

Mr. Barron, in his statement

and his wire to Mr. Welch, protested specifically against actions by the society's major co-ordinator and its director of field activities. Mr. Barron declined to name either individual.

In his telegram, Mr. Barron said the major co-ordinator had written him "that I must not write to the home office to question certain new trends within society. The brash young man even proceeds to tell me what I may not discuss in privacy of my own home."

"His doctrine that one must always say 'yes' to the boss has been tried in other circumstances with unfortunate results. I want no part of it."

Opposed TV Debate

Mr. Barron said also that the society's director of field activities sought to prevent staff members from making any sort of public statements about the society and "did last month go to extreme lengths in attempting to prevent the Open End TV debate on the John Birch Society from being staged."

Reached at his home, Mr. Barron explained that his resignation applied only to his job and was not a withdrawal from the society. He added "I haven't faced that question yet"—and noted "I might be dropped."

Mr. Barron said he received expense money but no regular salary from the society "and it came out about even at the end of the month."

THE EVENING STAR
Washington, D.C.

Date: MAY 21 1961

Editor: B. M. MCKELWAY

Author:

Re:

BU FILE:

RH FILE:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

100-9991

100-9991-49

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 23 1961	
FBI — RICHMOND	

Birch Society Called Absurd

KLAMENSHA LAKE, N. Y., June 7. — (AP) — The John Birch Society is "an absurdity," says Arnold Forster, general counsel for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Jewish fraternal and service organization. Forster maintained that the ultra-conservative Birch Society "is as dangerous to American democracy as the communism it purports to fight." He said the society holds to the concept that it must operate in secrecy in order to attain its goals.

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
Richmond, Virginia

Date: JUN 7 1961

Editor: JOHN J. KILPATRICK

Author:

Re:

BUFILE:

RH FILE:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

100-9991-50

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 9 1961	
FBI — RICHMOND	

Sit-ins and the Reds

Here is an excerpt from FBI Director J. EDGAR HOOVER's testimony before a House Appropriations subcommittee in a recent hearing, the printed transcript of which has just become available:

Communist propaganda has always been quick to seize on problems of minority groups. Instances involving the Negro race have been prime targets in this barrage.

The sit-in demonstration in the South were a made-to-order issue which the party fully exploited to further its own ends. The Communists first showed an interest in the demonstrations in late February, 1960, when James E. Jackson and Joseph North, national Communist party functionaries, traveled to Richmond, Va., and wrote articles for "The Worker," an East Coast Communist weekly newspaper, concerning demonstrations then in progress in Richmond.

Also, during early March, 1960, Daniel Rabin, national youth director of the Communist party, USA, visited college campuses in Richmond to obtain statements from students in connection with the demonstrations.

The Communist party strategy was not to openly advocate picketing, inasmuch as this would tend to expose its members, but rather to get behind the movement by urging college students to take the initiative.

The importance which the Communist party, USA, has placed on these demonstrations was sharply brought into focus when Benjamin Davis, the party's national secretary, told the party in March, 1960, that these demonstrations were considered the next best thing to "proletarian revolution."

We thought the above would be of interest to Richmonders of both races.

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date: 6-9-61

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Author:

Re:

BUFILE:

RH FILE:

6-9-61
cc to Bureau
B

100-9991-51

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 9 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

ABW

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

b6
b7C

Memorandum

TO : SAC, RICHMOND (100-9991)

DATE: 6/19/61

FROM : SA

SUBJECT: GEORGE STEDMAN BETLEY

This is to record that on June 13, 1961, captioned subject appeared at the Richmond Office and advised that he has resigned from his position as salesman with the Continental Can Company and has accepted on a full-time basis the position as Virginia Coordinator of the John Burch Society. Complete background history of the individual is contained in the 67-0 file wherein he made application for the position of Special Agent in this Bureau.

② - Richmond (① - 100-9991)
(1 - 67-0)

RET/vls
(2) *[signature]*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

100-9991-52

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 19 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

[initials]

By Holmes Alexander:

Andrews Is Long Shot In Va. Race

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

YOU HAVE to assume that a Democratic primary election in Virginia will probably decide who's going to get the almost automatic election in November as Governor and Lieutenant Governor—but this year could be different.

The chance of a surprise ending is admittedly remote, but it is fascinating and has a national angle. On July 11 the Democrats will have two tickets in the field—the followers of Senator Harry Byrd are putting up Albertis Harrison and Mills Godwin, while the opposition sends out A. E. S. Stephens and Armistead Boothe. On July 8 the Republicans meet in convention to choose their slate. A snowball this summer would have as much chance as the Republicans in the November election. But the intriguing possibility of a long-shot upset lies in the rugged, colorful character of a man named T. Coleman Andrews.

In 1956 Andrews, a Richmond native and life-long Byrd Democrat, ran as an independent candidate for President, but it would be a mistake to write him off as a crackpot on this or any other evidence. A self-educated man, he taught himself accountancy and became one of the top business consultants and actuaries in the country. When Harry Byrd, as Virginia Governor, was setting up the State's financial structure, which is admittedly the soundest and most crook-proof in the nation, Coleman Andrews was named Auditor of Public Accounts (1931-33). When General Eisenhower was elected President in 1952, a firm was engaged to find the best man to become Director of Internal Revenue, and Andrews was chosen.

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date: JUN 30 1961

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Author:

Re:

BUFILE:

RH FILE:

100-9991

See Pg 2

100-9991-53

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 3 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

HE FOUND the Federal finance system a little better than a jungle and tried hard to bring about reforms in the income tax, but learned that Washington bureaucracy was so petrified that only a dynamite blast could loosen the structure and make way for improvements. He resigned his post with a few hundred well-chosen words of warning and despair. As a protest, and in hope of doing a little good, he let his name go on the ballot as a presidential candidate who stood for the razing and reconstruction of our tax system.

Andrews, a thorough-going conservative and red-white-and-blue patriot, comes close to worshipping Senator Byrd as a political leader. Andrews has already endorsed the Byrd ticket and contributed to the campaign. But the possibility is larger this year than usual that one of the two top Byrd candidates could be beaten. The odds are pretty favorable that Harrison will beat Stephens and keep the governorship in the Byrd House. But a lot of ticket-splitting is predicted, and the wise money is saying that Armistead



T. COLEMAN ANDREWS

Boothe, a liberal and interloper from the Byrd viewpoint, might win and become Lieutenant Governor.

If one or both of the Byrd candidates falter, Coleman Andrews will be in demand as an Independent Democratic candidate for November. He can be entered by a simple petition which may be filed up to 30 days before the election date.

ONCE on the ballot, Andrews becomes a newsworthy figure. Last year, although he publicly declined to run, something like 20,000 Richmonders voted for him on a write-in against Congressman J. Vaughan Gary. In 1956 without any sort of campaign, he got around 40,000 Virginia votes for President. He would need several times that many to win a State-wide office, but the Republicans might prefer him to their candidate who has no chance, and the Byrd Democrats might accept him as the life-saver of their Organization.

Nationally, Andrews would join Senators Barry Goldwater and John Tower as fighting Right-Wingers. Andrews, although born in 1899, enlisted in the Marine Corps in World War II, served overseas and won a Bronze Star. He is an avowed charter member of the John Birch Society, a speechifier and pamphleteer who opposed everything which he believes may weaken America and give the slightest comfort to her enemies.

He could be the most exciting thing that will come out of the Virginia elections.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

TO : SAC, RICHMOND (100-9991)

DATE: 7/26/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Complainant
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING [REDACTED]

This is to record that on July 19, 1961, [REDACTED] appeared at the Richmond Office and advised that he was the Virginia co-ordinator of the John Burch Society and that he wished to furnish the following information.

He suspects his neighbor [REDACTED] of possessing unpatriotic ideas and philosophy. He explained that [REDACTED] who is a very reputable person in Virginia, who is Commander of the local U. S. Naval Reserve Unit, is opposed to the John Burch Society and its tenets. He stated on several occasions he has heard [REDACTED] state that the John Burch Society is not the way to battle Communism.

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[REDACTED] had no other basis on furnishing [REDACTED] name and stated he had no proof whatsoever that [REDACTED] was engaged in any subversive activity but that he believed that anyone who was so violently opposed to the John Burch Society as HARRIS should be brought to the attention of the FBI.

Complete background history of [REDACTED] is contained in 67-0 file where he made application for the position of Special Agent in this Bureau.

1 Richmond

EMD/eml
(1)

eml

John Burch Society

100-9991-54

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 26 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Birch Society Is Attacked By ABA Head

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 7. (AP)—The president of the American Bar Association accused the John Birch Society today of "personal vilification" of Chief Justice Earl Warren and said it tends to undermine public respect for law.

In an impromptu interpolation of his speech opening the 84th annual convention of the bar association, President Whitney North Seymour of New York City struck out at the far-right society for its drive to impeach the chief justice.

CONDUCT ESSAY

Robert H. Welch Jr. announced August 4 that the society would conduct an essay contest among college students on "grounds for the impeachment" of Warren. The first prize will be \$1,000. Welch said many of Warren's actions and decisions had helped the Communist cause.

Delegates of the ABA applauded Seymour roundly when he said "this is not legitimate criticism of decisions; it is personal vilification of one occupying one of the chief offices of our government."

He continued: "All lawyers must deplore such conduct; no responsible persons will encourage it."

FALSE IMPLICATIONS

"The ignorant, by such false implications of misconduct are led into disrespect for our institutions which maintain liberty under law, and thus for all law. Let us leave such attacks to the Communists who hate our institutions. Our duty is to uphold and defend liberty under law and the independent courts which are essential to maintain it."

Meanwhile, fireworks over the U. S. Supreme Court's anti-segregation decisions were a possibility when the ABA's policy-making house of delegates convenes. A resolution calling in effect upon Southern states to cease their fight to preserve color lines, is before the house.

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
Richmond, Virginia

Date: **AUG 7 1961**

Editor: JAMES J. KILPATRICK

Author:

Re:

RH FILE:

BU FILE:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

file
100-9991-55

SEARCHED	<i>g</i>
INDEXED	<i>7</i>
AUG 8 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO SAC, RICHMOND

DATE: 8/21/61

FROM SA [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

SUBJECT: CP, USA
SOUTHERN REGION
RICHMOND DIVISION
IS - C

b2
b7D

On 8/15/61, [REDACTED], who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available a written report prepared by him on 8/12/61, concerning activities occurring 8/10/61, as follows:

"8/12/61

"Subject: Richmond Communist Party Meeting
3017 Forest Hill Ave.
Richmond, Va.
8/10/61

"The Richmond Communist Party met tonight at above address and on above date at 8:30 P.M.

"Louis Kalb stated that:

"We have some Kids visiting us, so Mary took them out so we could have this meeting, she will be back around ten P.M. so less cut this meet short."

2-Baltimore (REGISTERED MAIL)
12-Richmond

- (1 - 100-7390 - L. KALB)
- (1 - 100-5638 - M. KALB)
- (1 - 100-9674 - C. JAMES)
- (1 - 100-7623 - A. NESTER)
- (1 - 100-7625 - J. NESTER)
- (1 - 100-7599 - INTERNATIONAL)
- (1 - 100-9991 - JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY)
- (1 - 100-7603 - DOM. ADM. ISSUES)
- (1 - 100-7604 - PAM. AND PUB.)
- (1 - 100-7728 - H. BUCH)
- (1 - 100-8669 - G. MEYERS)
- (1 - 100-1634 - A. BURKE)

100-9991-56

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>m</i>	FILED <i>m</i>
AUG 22 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

7

RET/mkb
(14)

"The following people were present:

Clare James - Chairman
Archie Nester
Juanita Nester
Louis Kalb

"Agenda was as follows:

Educational

a - Discussion on Plane incidents and Berlin

Organizational

a-Discussion and report on Supreme Court Decision
and Party mailing on same.

"In the discussion on the Hi-Jacking of Planes incidents Archie Nester and Louis Kalb attempted to tie this in with the John Birch Society and ties with pressure in this country for war around the Berlin Issue.

"Louis Kalb stated:

"'We are seeing the Nazis rebuild in Germany and it will be disastrous should West Germany troops be armed with Nuclear weapons.' 'In this country the Birch society is trying to stir up a sentiment for war, and you can compare the South in America like the Prussians and Youngers in Germany. They are reactionary and would dare to go to war in order to stop Communism.' 'Even the average man on the _____ seems to think that Pres. Kennedy should be tough and yield a big fist.' 'There is a dangerous current of Nationalism arising. We must start educating the people to understand that war is not inevitable and that labor will lose in event of war.

"'We must start working for peace sentiment.'

"'We should obtain copies of the New Soviet Program and give it wide circulation so the people can see for them selves that the Soviet People want peace in order to build up their country and not war.

"'We should do a regular mailing of this order.

"Kalb proposed that a discussion and report on the John Birch Book be given in next meeting.

"Archie Nester asked:

"'What is our Party doing about the Supreme Court decision? Have they considered appealing for a new hearing on the Smith act decision?'

"Louis Kalb stated:

"'I don't know what steps is being taken at this time. I didn't get to discuss this with anyone on me recent trip to New York due to the short time I was there.

"'While we know the appeal on the McCarran act is due on Oct. I don't know what the Government will try to do if we lose this appeal, whether they will start similar actions to force each member to register if our leadership refuses. While I imagine our Party will attempt a defense against each attempt to carry out the McCarran act with individuals.'

"Louis Kalb stated:

"'As you know we have gotten out an initial mailing on the Black Dissenting opinion in the McCarran act Decision. We mailed out 25 of the Black Pamphlet and about 150 of the Worker supplement. James and I have been getting together a list of Liberals. We should get out mailing to these. We should include in this list all of our former members and sympathisers.

"'I have received a call from Harold Buch, wanting a copy of the New Soviet Program. For a while he was even afraid to talk to us.

"'We talked to Alice when we were in New York about our problem of storing Communist Party Files in Archies Possession. She feels that George Myers would likely be in the same position as us about storing the ? She is to talk this over with Sylvia (Hall) and let us know what Sylvia thinks about it when she (Alice) comes down to pick up her girl that is visiting us.

"George Myers is to let us know when we meet with them at Baltimore, so we can take the surplus literature up there which they want.

"Archie Nester stated:

"'I'll have to get this stuff out of our house soon as we want to start showing our house when we put it up for sale. I don't think we should destroy this stuff even if I have to personally rent a garage somewhere at my own expense.

"'I would like to keep this stuff in our possession, who knows I might want to write a book some day and the history in this files would be invaluable.;

"Louis Kalb stated:

"'Well we can store it up in our attic if necessary, although we don 't like to do so. We will hear from Alice as to what Sylvia's solution to the problem is.

"Louis Kalb proposed that 'members of the party preferably Archie, find out about a new Organization being organized in Arlington which is anti-Fascist.' He suggested that 'Archie write the attorney in Alexandria who took an anti-Rockwell stand and find out who to get in touch with in order to join this anti-Fascist group.'"

"Subject: Actions Taken
Richmond Communist Party Meeting
3017 Forest Hill Ave.
Richmond, Va.
8/10/61

- 1 - "That the Richmond Communist Party obtain copies of the new Soviet Program and give it wide circulation.
- 2 - "That Archie Nester be assigned to give a report on a book exposing John Birch Society in next meeting.
- 3 - "Archie to get up a list of his contacts to be added to Party's Liberal Mailing List.

- 4 - "That James order copies of 'I do Not Think the Courts Action can be justified', dissenting opinion of Chief Justice Warren.
- 5 - "That balance of Worker Supplement on McCarran Act decision be mailed either by Roanoke people and Norfolk or if not practical, that they be mailed by Richmond Party to Roanoke and Norfolk names.
- 6 - "That Archie Nester contact an un-identified attorney in Alexandria involved in Norman Rockwell case, and try to get details of a New Anti-Fascist or Anti-Nazis group being organized in Arlington, for purpose of having Nester join said organization, and forming similar chapters in Richmond if possible.
- 7 - "Party to meet next on Aug. 21, 1961"

Copies of this memorandum have been prepared for all individuals, organizations and control files mentioned herein.

The informant's report has been filed as

b2
b7D

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, RICHMOND (100-9991)

DATE: 9/14/61

FROM :

SA

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

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b7C

On 9/7/61, Mr. ~~EDMUND WALTER FORCKE, JR.~~, 2928 North Boulevard, Richmond 27, Va., (Box 9201, Telephone ELgin 9-5011), personally contacted the FBI Office, Richmond, and sought from this organization advice as to the purposes, the programs and the trust-worthiness of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. Mr. FORCKE stated he was not here to seek an endorsement by the FBI of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, but his inquiry was of a general nature, seeking to explore whether the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY actually stood for the tenets they proposed in their programs. Mr. FORCKE advised he was 33 years of age and the president of his own insurance business. He knows many members of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY and that, although he is not now a member of that society, he is planning in the future to join. He stated he has been active with this organization in sending telegrams and other miscellaneous information, and he wanted to be assured that this society was all it was made up to be.

Mr. FORCKE was advised that the FBI is the investigative arm of the Attorney General's Office, and as such, the FBI was precluded by law from furnishing individuals any information that might be contained in their files. He was advised that if he were to join, this decision must be made by him and him alone, and the FBI could not, under any circumstances, comment on the propriety of this society--either pro or con.

It is noted that Mr. FORCKE appeared to be generally forthright in his approach to the society and the possible consequence if, in the future, it should be determined that the society does not live up to its standards and programs, it is recommended that Mr. FORCKE's name be indexed.

① - Richmond
LCM/mw
(1) *mw*

100-9991-57

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 14 1961	
FBI — RICHMOND	

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RH 100-9991

If, in the future, the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY should ever come under investigation in this office, Mr. FORCKE should be contacted for any information he would have concerning this organization. It is further noted that Richmond files 100-1208 and 100-1478 appear to contain as their subject, EDMUND WALTER FORCKE. It has not been determined, however, that the subject contained therein is the father of EDMUND WALTER FORCKE, JR.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

**Robert Welch,
Of Birch Society,
To Speak Here**

Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, will speak in Richmond on November 14.

The city will be the first stop by Welch on a speaking tour of the South. From Richmond he will go to Atlanta, Ga.

Members and friends of the John Birch Society are sponsoring his visit here. Admission to his talk in the Virginia Room of the Hotel John Marshall will be by ticket only.

The speech is expected to draw attendance from several areas of Virginia. Entitled "Through All the Days to Be," it will cover Welch's views on national and international problems.

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
Richmond, Virginia

Date:

Editor: JAMES J. KILPATRICK

Author:

Re:

RH FILE:

BU FILE

100-9991

11-2-61
cc to Bureau

100-9991-58

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 2 1961	
FBI — RICHMOND	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

**Tickets Are Available
For Welch Talk**

Tickets for the address here
by Robert Welch, founder of
the John Birch Society, should
be requested from George Pet-
ley, whose telephone number is
AT 8-7320.

T. Coleman Andrews, one of
12 organizers of the society,
said Petley is Richmond co-or-
dinator for the group. Welch
will speak at 8 p.m. November
14 at Hotel John Marshall. Ad-
mission will be by ticket only.

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date: NOV 3 1961

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Re: *John Birch
Society*

BUFILE:

RH FILE: 100-9991*

100-9991-59

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 4 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Travis
(Luzo)

Birch Society Talk Draws 1,000

Welch Says Power of Reds Seated in Top U. S. Circles

Robert Welch last night told an applauding audience here that Communist strength "lies in the top social, economic, educational, and political circles of our country."

Then, drawing a roar of approval from more than 1,000 in the Virginia room of the Hotel John Marshall, Welch added:

"I can find you a lot more Harvard accents in Communist circles today than you can find men in overalls."

Welch, a retired candy manufacturer, living in Belmont, Mass., organized the John Birch Society three years ago at a gathering of ultra conservatives in Indianapolis.

At only one point during the two-hour speech did anybody register public dissent. That came as an astonished, abrupt "boo," when Welch, speaking of Pearl Harbor, declared that "the lives of 3,000 men and half our navy was deliberately sacrificed" to Japan to get us into war.

Much of what he said was on the theme of "the principle of reversal" under which he said, Communists infiltrate where they are least expected and are willing "to take two short steps backward in order to take one long step forward" and make a net gain. They "take their greatest weakness and by daring and bluff convert it to their strength," he added.

CLERGY GROUP CITED

He cited others as saying that "proportionally the largest single body of Communists in America is in our own Protestant clergy," and added Welch "has no doubt but what they are right."



(Staff Photo)
ROBERT WELCH
Speaking Here

Of 200,000 Protestant clergymen, he said, 7,000 can be called consimps; "either Communists or sympathizers with Communist purposes."

Nobody is accusing the other 97 per cent, he said, of anything except gullibility and apathy in allowing such conditions to exist.

"Protestant ministers do not become Communists, but Communists do become Protestant ministers," he said.

Genuine ministers, he said, are not Communist, although their noble instincts do move some of them at times "to

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
Richmond, Virginia

Date **NOV 15 1961**

Editor: JAMES J. KILPATRICK

Author:

Re:

RH FILE:

BU FILE:

*John Birch
Director
100-9991-60*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 17 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

think with their hearts rather than their heads" in favoring socialistic programs.

But, he said, some of the most brilliant young Communists may be told to go through the seminary and become ordained and "to become ostensibly the best of all the ministers around."

There are Communist wolves in the midst of the sheep, he said. There is "an increasingly disturbing and dangerous development in the Protestant hierarchy as a whole."

The Protestant ministry should have been in the forefront of militant opposition to the Communists, he said. Here, he paused, and in an aside to say that in many individual cases they are so opposed, and, turning to his charge again of laxity in the upper circles, he said that in the top councils in Protestant churches can be found ministers helping with specific communistic objectives "and widely supporting Communist purposes in general."

As to Communist infiltration in government, Welch said it was becoming dangerous because Communists "have been heavily influencing all the major decisions of our government since 1941."

The only question with them, he said, is how far they can go before alerting the American people and so they follow a policy of patient gradualism."

REDS IN KEY POSITIONS

Welch said he thought that at least 98 per cent of the governmental employes "are loyal and patriotic Americans even today" and that during the whole period since 1941 there have been more than 90 per cent that have "never even suspected what has been going on, even in the betrayals they

are helping implement." Not as many as 3 per cent, not one in 50 are Communists, said Welch, but the Communist strategy lies in putting men in key positions. Even in Russia, he added, if you called every man you met a Communist, you'd be wrong 95 or 96 per cent of the time.

"It's not how many, but where they are," he said, concentrating where they could most effectively determine the policies of the agencies of the government.

"Ever since 1945-1946" he said, "our government has been the most powerful steady force supporting the worldwide Communist advance while always pretending to oppose that advance," said Welch.

OTHER POINTS

That was the note on which he closed, but at other points:

- He termed America's convention-primary system for nomination of presidential candidates as "the Achilles heel" exploited by the Communists who "pulled out all the stops" to defeat the nomination of Robert Taft.

- He said Joseph McCarthy, instead of debating ideologies, exposed individual Communists and that "basically, and with minor exceptions indeed, there was nothing wrong with McCarthy's methods from the point of view of patriotic Americans; but there was a great deal wrong from the point of view of Communists."

- He said he was convinced that the powers that be, knowing that the desegregation decision was coming out on May 17, 1954, used that attention-getting decree as an umbrella under which to issue on the same day the executive order, "the gag rule" forbidding government employes to testify unless permitted to do so."

- He said our foreign aid program has done some good—"the Communists do not believe in solid black instrumentalities but in dark gray ones"—but on the whole "foreign aid has been a tremendous help to advance communism."

- He declared that "an all-out shooting war is the last thing the Communists want, why should they try to win by military force what they are doing so easily and rapidly by interior subversion?" An all-out war would be a signal for uprising all over the world.

- If the enslaved people all revolted at once, the lords of the Kremlin wouldn't last three months. Persuaded that there is danger from the outside, he said the American people are being stampeded into

taking measures that would change the country's economic and political structure and convert it to a socialist state.

Welch closed by saying that the Communists seek to make

hatred, rather than love, the world's motivating force and that our decisions may determine whether "our children and their children love a God of hate or a God of love."

Welch Says Reds Abound In Top Levels

RICHMOND, Nov. 15 (AP) — Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, says that Communist strength "lies in the top social, economic, educational, and political circles of our country."

Then drawing a roar of approval from an audience of more than 1000 in a talk last night in a hotel ballroom here, Welch added:

"I can find you a lot more Harvard accents in Communist circles today than you can find me over all."

At only one point during the two-hour speech by Welch did anybody register public dissent. That came as an astonished, abrupt "boo" when Welch, speaking of Pearl Harbor, declared that "the lives of 3000 men and half our Navy was deliberately sacrificed" to Japan to get us into war.

Much of what he said was on the theme of "the principle of reversal" under which, he said, Communists infiltrate where they are least expected and are willing "to take two short steps backward in order to take one long step forward" and make a net gain. They "take their greatest weakness and by daring and bluff convert it to their strength," he added.

He cited others as saying that "proportionally the largest single body of Communists in America is in our own Protestant clergy." He added "I have no doubt but what they are right."

THE WASHINGTON POST
Washington, D. C.

Date: NOV 13 1961

Editor: J. R. WIGGINS

Author:

RE:

BUFILE:

RH FILE:

100-9991

100-9991-61

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 20 1961	
FBI — RICHMOND	

Andrews Backs View Far Right Is Afraid

RICHMOND, Va., Nov. 25 (AP) — T. Coleman Andrews says he agrees with President Kennedy that the far right wing — and I count myself of that persuasion — is both afraid and frustrated.

Mr. Andrews, former director of the Internal Revenue Service and 1956 States Rights-Tax reform candidate for President, said he also agreed with Mr. Kennedy's statement that "we of the solid right equate the Democratic Party with the welfare state and the welfare state with socialism and socialism with communism."

Mr. Andrews is a leading figure in the John Birch Society and introduced its founder, Robert Welch, at a Richmond appearance earlier this month.

In a statement released through a Virginia publicity service yesterday, Mr. Andrews said he was afraid "for I see our Nation being engulfed by the Socialists and I see the President of the United States

aiding in this eclipse of our personal liberty. I have been frustrated because I have been able to do nothing — or too little — about it. Those to whom I would normally turn, those whose sworn duty is to uphold the Constitution of the United States, are abetting our downfall."

As for the National Democratic Party, said Mr. Andrews, who now heads a large insurance firm here, it "has fostered in our land the idea that Government should assume our personal rights and responsibilities. And this is text-book welfare statism, and welfare statism is socialism, and the Communists, by self-proclamation, are Socialists."

"The President is right in his accusation. We do charge the party which he heads is leading us into socialism. His people are working with every tool at their command to make of us something we would vote down in a minute, if we had the opportunity."

100-9991

THE EVENING STAR
Washington, D. C.

Date: NOV 25 1961

Editor: B. M. MC KELWAY

Author:

Re:

BU FILE:

RH FILE:

*John Birch
Society*

100-9991-62

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 25 1961	
FBI — RICHMOND	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Andrews Attacks Democrats

T. Coleman Andrews Sr. said yesterday that the national Democratic party has "fostered in our land the idea that government should assume our personal rights and responsibilities."

This, he said, "is text-book welfare statism and welfare statism is socialism and the Communists, by self-proclamation, are Socialists."

Andrews, district leader in the controversial John Birch Society, said that the "solid right" equates the Democratic party with the welfare state and the welfare state with socialism and socialism with communism."

Cites Kennedy's Speech

He continued that President Kennedy was right when he charged a week ago in San Francisco that the "solid right" feels that the party which he (the President) heads is leading this country into socialism.

"I am afraid I see our nation being engulfed by the Socialists, and I see the President of the United States aiding in this eclipse of our personal liberty," he said.

Andrews, a former director of the Internal Revenue Service and 1956 States Rights Tax Reform candidate for President, issued his statement through a Virginia publicity service.

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date: NOV 25 1961

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Re:

BUFILE:

RH FILE:

John Birch Society

100-9991-63

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 27 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

W.C. Andrews
File

Cover

Democrats Called Red By Birchite

RICHMOND, Nov. 24 (AP) — T. Coleman Andrews agreed with President Kennedy today that the far right wing — and I count myself of that persuasion — is both afraid and frustrated.

Andrews, former director of the Internal Revenue Service and 1956 states rights-tax reform candidate for President, said he also agreed with Kennedy's statement that "we of the solid right equate the Democratic Party with the welfare state and the welfare state with socialism and socialism with communism."

Andrews is a leading figure in the John Birch Society. He introduced its founder, Robert W. Birch, at a Richmond appearance earlier this month.

In a statement released through a Virginia publicity service, Andrews said he is afraid, "for I see our Nation being engulfed by the socialists and I see the President of the United States aiding in this eclipse of our personal liberty."

"I have been frustrated because I have been able to do nothing — or too little — about it, those to whom I would normally turn, those whose sworn duty is to uphold the Constitution of the United States, are abetting our downfall."

As for the National Democratic Party, said Andrews, who heads an insurance firm here, "it has fostered in our land the idea that Government should assume our personal rights and responsibilities. And this is text-book welfare statism, and welfare statism is socialism, and the Communists, by self-proclamation, are socialists."

"The President is right in his accusation. We do charge the Party which he heads is leading us into socialism. His people are working with every tool of their command to make of us something we would vote down in a minute, item by item if we had the opportunity."

Andrews said the conservative right is winning, however, "and that is why the President took time out to lambaste us. You don't shoot at dead horses."

THE WASHINGTON POST
Washington, D. C.

Date: NOV 25 1961

Editor: J. R. WIGGINS

Author:

RE:

BUFILE:

PH FILE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

100-9991-64

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 27 1961	
FBI — RICHMOND	

Carver

SAC, CHARLOTTE

12/19/61

SAC, RICHMOND (100-9991)

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

On 12/4/61, [redacted] advised SA CHARLES F. HEINER that recently while in contact with JOSEPH BRYANT, a former source for his agency, BRYANT advised that the following individuals, who in the past have had Klan connections, were interested in the John Birch Society in Charlotte, N.C. BRYANT identified these individuals as:

ARMOND T. SWISHER, who resides Providence Road, Charlotte, telephone EM 6-4003

According to BRYANT, SWISHER contributed \$15.00 to the Ku Klux Klan following the Lumberton, N.C. Indian Raid and previously he had made \$5.00 and \$10.00 donations to the Klan.

PARKE YANDLE, 1511B E. 35th St., Charlotte, N.C.

BRYANT also identified YANDLE as a follower of GERALD L. K. SMITH, who is currently interested in the John Birch Society.

Above is furnished for your information.

2-Charlotte

2-Richmond

1 - [redacted]

1 - 100-9991

CFH/mkb

(4)

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

100-9991-63

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, RICHMOND (100-9991)

DATE: 12/19/61

FROM : SA CHARLES F. HEINER

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

b2
b7D

On 12/8/61, [redacted] advised the writer that GEORGE PETLEY is the Virginia co-ordinator of the John Birch Society. He further advised that PETLEY has been in correspondence with JUANITA RIGSBY, 2920 West Grace St., Richmond, Va., concerning the John Birch Society.

The above is being submitted for information purposes.

2-Richmond

1 - 100-9991

1 - [redacted]

CH/mkb

(2)

b2
b7D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

100-9991-66

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 19 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Obscene Publications Undermine Morality

Editor: The News Leader:

In this modern age, where conformity rather than adherence to principle seems to be the more popular course, it is heartening to observe incidents where solid citizens simply refuse to compromise what they know to be right. When such incidents are observed, commendation is in order.

A pharmacist of my acquaintance at a West End drug store hadn't stopped to realize that his newsstand, like most newsstands throughout the country, contained trash and obscene literature. When a patron pointed this out to him, he was prompt to respond that he would have no part of it and was most anxious to have such material removed. He made it clear that in future transactions with the publishers he would simply refuse to purchase such material again.

Perhaps this pharmacist did not realize that his action, if followed by the owners of other newsstands in the city and throughout the country, would deal a crippling blow to the Communists' aim of breaking down the morals of our young people by flooding the country with such trash.

So let's take time to thank this druggist and urge others to follow his example. Let's lead the way in making it popular to conform only to what is right.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE S. PETLEY

Coordinator
John Birch Society

100-9991X

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Date: JAN 1, 1962

Editor: JAMES J. KILPATRICK

AUTHOR:

RE:

*John Birch
Society*

RH FILE:

BU FILE:

file in Birch Soc. file

100-9991-68

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 30 1962	
FBI - RICHMOND	

22

Index

Speaker Denounces Birchers

The John Birch Society, which regards democracy as an evil and as a sure road to communism, is part of a radical right-wing movement which sees all problems in conspiratorial terms, an Anti-Defamation League official said yesterday.

Robert C. Kohler, Virginia-North Carolina regional director of the league, told a Hillel group at the Richmond Jewish Center that the society has no constructive program because it is not for anything, "only against."

Kohler said that simply denouncing the policies of far right extremists is not likely to temper their fanaticism because "they thrive on martyrdom—and are only too happy to add its critics to their list of subversives."

Can't Be Ignored

The Anti-Defamation League would like to ignore the John Birch Society completely, Kohler said.

But it cannot be ignored when its leader Robert Welch in his "Blue Book" calls democracy "a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud," he said.

Welch's principle of reversal causes the listener to be overcome with a "never-never land feeling," Kohler said.

His theory of reversal suggests "that if a man admits he is a Communist, then you know he is. If a man denies he is a Communist then he must be one because he denies it," Kohler said.

Semantic Camouflage

Kohler said that Welch and his followers "hide behind 'semantic camouflage' to describe an enemy whom he cannot prove to be a Communist and cannot denounce without running the risk of committing libel.

The Birch society is one of many ultra right-wing groups which have sprung up in this country in recent years but is doomed to extinction, he said.

In the meantime, irreparable damage is done to the serious problem of combating world communism when these far right-wing organizations, "in their own zealous irresponsibility," take up the cudgel and campaign for policies that parallel those of the Soviet Communists," Kohler said.

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia

Date: DEC 11 1961

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABNEY

RE:

BUFILE:

RH FILE: 100 - 9991*

100 - 9991 - 67

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 12 1961	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Mr. [unclear]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

TO : SAC

DATE: 2/17/62

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. THOMAS

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY ✓ 100-99918
Information Concerning

On February 15, 1962, Mrs. ELIZABETH OSTH, 126 South Church Street, Berryville, Virginia, and who is Editor of a publication entitled "Minute Women USA, Inc" and who has a fifteen minute program on Radio Station WINC, Winchester, Virginia, once a week entitled "Clarke and Frederick County Discussion Group", telephonically contacted the writer and stated that she wanted to talk with an FBI Agent. Upon being contacted Mrs. OSTH stated that she believed that her telephone was being "bugged" and if the FBI could do anything concerning ~~####~~ her phone being tampered with. She was informed that the FBI could do nothing and that she should contact the telephone company.

Mrs. OSTH then began talking about the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY and furnished the following information:

That in October, 1959 she joined the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, not as an active member, but just to receive their publications;

The Coordinator of the John Birch Society for the State of Virginia is GEORGE BETLEY, 2704 Dancer Road, Richmond, Virginia, and that this individual was formerly employed for the American Can Company, Richmond, Virginia;

That the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY has Chapters in the following cities and their Chapter leaders are as follows:

cc'd, index P122

SEARCHED <u>21</u>	SERIALIZED <u>21</u>
FEB 18 1962	
FBI - RICHMOND	

100-9991-69

Leesburg, Virginia

Chapter Leader: BOB STEVENS

Alexandria, Virginia

Chapter Leader: JANET GOODWIN, 615 South Lee Street, Alexandria, Virginia

Associate Leader: ELEANOR GIBSON, Apartment 122, 1850 nColumbia Pike, Arlington, Virginia

Norfolk, Virginia

Chapter Leader: Mrs. ADDISON HAGAN, 524 Warren Crescent, Norfolk, Virginia

Charlottesville, Virginia

Chapter Leader: DON HARRIS, address not known, Charlottesville, Virginia

Members of this chapter are Mr. and Mrs. RICHARD MIDDLETON, Charlottesville, Virginia. Mr. MIDDLETON is a member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-17-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

TO : SAC, RICHMOND

DATE: 2/14/62

FROM : SA RANDOLPH E. TROW

SUBJECT: INFORMATION FURNISHED
BY SECURITY INFORMANT

b2
b7D

The documentation for this information is as follows:

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Furnished	Agent	Location
[REDACTED]	2/1/62	2/12/62	RANDOLPH E. TROW	[REDACTED]

If information set forth in informant's statement below is reported, it should be carefully paraphrased so as to completely protect informant, who is a highly placed source.

The text of the informant's statement is as follows:

2-Norfolk (REGISTERED MAIL)
1-100-9674 (C. JAMES)
1-100-7390 (L. KALB)
1-100-5638 (M. KALB)
1-100-5263 (E. CHANDLER)
1-100-7623 (A. NESTER)
1-100-7599 (INTERNATIONAL)
1-100-7595 (LEGISLATIVE)
1-100-7496 (BRIEF)
1-157-93 (ANP)
1-100-7406 (PAM. & PUB.)
1-97-22 (NEW CENTURY)
1-100-7601 (ORG.)
1-100-9571 (B. HULL)
1-100-5798 (C. SABA)
1-100-7631 (J. DREW)
1-100-0 (Prof. ROBERTS)
1-100-9325 (VCHR)
1-100-9991 (BIRCH SOC.)
1-100-7604 (C. P. STRAT. INDUSTRY)
1-100-9608 (MASS ORG.)
1-100-9494 (ISA OF '50)

RET/bwm
(23)

100-9991-70

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 15 1962	
FBI - RICHMOND	

2/9/62

Subject: Richmond Communist Party Meeting
3017 Forest Hills Ave.
Richmond, Va.
2/1/62

The Richmond Communist Party held its meeting at the above address and on the above date at 8:30 P.M.

The following people were present:

Clare James - Chairman
Louis Kalb
Mary Kalb
Earl Chandler

Agenda as follows:

1. Educational
 - a. Discussion on Organization of American States
 - b. Va. General Assembly
2. Mass Work
 - a. Party actions on Sales Tax, Minimum Wage, Nazi Bill
3. Organization
 - a. Press Drive
 - b. Action on Cuban Question
 - c. Report on State Meeting

Educational

A scheduled discussion on James Jackson's article on the Soviet Party Program was postponed due to the absence of Archie Nester, who was assigned to lead the discussion. The group decided to discuss instead under educational, the recent development on the OAS.

This point was discussed and Louis Kalb stated as follows:

"News received around this action by OAS gives us the facts that the U.S.A. has failed to achieve their goal, nevertheless they are still in the position to do a lot of damage to Cuba. We need vitally to put out some information giving the facts around Cuba. Such as something to inform the people in this country that the Castro revolution is not what the imperialists are saying, but a desperate attempt for freedom by the Cuban people against U.S.A. Capitalist domination."

B

The group discussed the bills now before the Va. General Assembly. The ones that they were particularly interested in were the sales tax, Nazi and Minimum Wage Bill.

The Minimum Wage Bill was considered very important because it would affect in most cases the Negro people who are generally in the lowest paid groups. The bill to repeal the Nazi Charter brought on quite a bit of discussion.

Earl Chandler maintained that:

"To be for repealing the Nazi Charter would in manner of speaking set a precedent of denying a group the freedom of speech. This could also react against the Communist Party or the NAACP."

Louis Kalb pointed out that:

"This is quite a different matter. We don't openly advocate force and violence; we work for peaceful change of government, while the Nazis, headed by this rabble rousing Lincoln Rockwell, openly advocate force and violence against the Negro people, the Communist Party and any other organization with which they disagree".

Organizational

A. Press Drive

Mary Kalb reported on Press Drive and advocated the following actions:

"To start off with guaranteeing that each Party member re-subscribe to 'The Worker'.

To take a copy of 'The Worker' to each former member or contact and seek subscriptions."

B. Cuban Question

Party voted to have James write New Era Book and Subscription Service at 832 Broadway, N.Y. about obtaining copies of reprints of a "Worker" article on Cuba appearing in 1/28/62 issue of "The Worker" on Cuba. This reprint to be mailed to leading contacts of the Communist Party.

Note-(New Era Book & Subscription has taken over certain accounts of New Century Publishers.)

C. Report on State Meeting

Mary Kalb made a report on the proposed Virginia State meeting as follows:

"We saw Betty (Hull) and she is agreeable to meeting with us and Clara (Saba). We set the meeting for the last weekend in February. Betty and Clara want to socialize a bit so we thought we should have a not too long meeting on Saturday night, February 24. We can get a check up on activities and issues in Tidewater area and Roanoke and figure how we can involve these two in Party activities.

MASS WORK

The Richmond Communist Party decided on the following actions on bills before the General Assembly:

Sales Tax, Nazi Bill, Minimum.

"To try to organize active opposition to sales tax among Negro leaders, labor unions and rank and file membership of the Richmond Area Council on Human Relations.

"To offer alternate means of raising revenue for capital needs such as higher corporate tax, more equalization of assessments, higher graduated scales on State Income Tax above certain amounts, and higher rates on properties for local levels in assessing real estate.

"To use Party influence with Negro organization leaders, labor unions, Democratic Party, Virginia Council on Human Relations to attempt to start a citizens group to fight the above.

"To ask for repeal of Nazi Charter, adopt Minimum Wage Bill, Defeat Sales Tax."

ACTIONS TAKEN:

1. Attempt to influence the organization of a permanent Citizens Political Action Group to be active the year around.

Louis Kalb to accept the assignment to meet with John Drew and Prof. Roberts of Petersburg, Va. State University to raise the preliminary question of actions around sales tax, Nazi Bill, Minimum Wage Bill.

James to accept the assignment of getting in touch with Carl Huband, a labor union leader, to attempt to get political actions on above bills through the Third District Democratic Assn.

Archie Nester to accept the assignment of contacting individual members of RCAC and VCHR on actions around said bills and attempt to integrate these groups into the Citizens Political Action Group.

2. Virginia Party to have short State Communist Party Meeting on February 24, 1962.

3. Richmond Communist Party to have its next meeting on Feb. 12, 1962.

4. James to write New Era Book and Subscriptions Service in regards to reprint on "Worker" article on Cuba, issue of 1/28/62. The Richmond Communist Party to circulate this reprint to leading Party contacts.

Mary Kalb stated in tonight's meeting as follows:

"I've been in contact with Bill Ailor (Chairman of Third District Democratic Assn) and he is very strong for the bill before Va. General Assembly to repeal the Nazi Charter. So I gave him a copy of the book, 'The Fascist Revival', the inside story of the John Birch Society by Mike Newberry. Ailor is an anti-Birch."

Mary Kalb stated tonight in regard to Betty Hull as follows:

"Betty came to see us and we set up the proposed state meeting with her. She has bought a new car and has just recently went on a trip to her home up north. Her brother Ralph drove her up but she drove back. She took driving lessons which cost her \$10 per hour and she qualified for a drivers license in 7 hours instructions. We (The Communist Party) are very anxious to utilize her talents and contacts with the labor unions and political organizations in her area, if we can't then she would serve no useful purpose, she might as well go back home and not stay in the Tidewater Area."

Mary Kalb stated tonight as follows:

"We have not heard from the center (National Communist Party Headquarters), so we might as well as be active in Mass worker and just not be paralyzed from the McCarran Act. "

Louis Kalb stated much the same thing in advocating actions around bills before the Virginia General Assembly and Cuban question.

Mary Kalb stated in regard to the new publishing house, New Area, which is supposed to take over most of New Century Publishers business and contacts, that "I assume this was necessary in order to circumvent the repressive actions against our organizations by the McCarran Act."

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, RICHMOND

FROM : SA RANDOLPH E. TROW

SUBJECT: INFORMATION FURNISHED
BY SECURITY INFORMANT

DATE: 3/29/62

The documentation for this information is as follows:

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Furnished	Agent	Location
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 30px;"></div>	b2 b7D 3/15/62	3/26/62	SA RANDOLPH E. TROW	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 30px;"></div> b2 b7D

If information set forth in informant's statement below is reported, it should be carefully paraphrased so as to completely protect informant, who is a highly placed source.

The text of the informant's statement is as follows:

- 18 - Richmond
- 1 - 100-9674 (C. JAMES)
 - 1 - 100-7390 (I. KALB)
 - 1 - 100-5638 (M. KALB)
 - 1 - 100-5263 (E. CHANDLER)
 - 1 - 100-7359 (Funds)
 - 1 - 100-7406 (Pam. & Pub.)
 - 1 - 100-7603 (Dom. Adm. Issues)
 - 1 - 100-6977 (MOE SCHIFF)
 - 1 - 100-0 (ALLEN)
 - 1 - 100-8398 (TED REES)
 - 1 - (LIL KAPLAN)
 - 1 - (BILL AILOR)
 - 1 - 100-9608 (Mass Org.)
 - 1 - 100-9991 (Birch Soc.)
 - 1 - 100-7623 (A. NESTER)
 - 1 - 100-7625 (J. NESTER)
 - 1 - 100-7601 (Org.)
 - 1 - 100-7607 (Youth)

RET/fkw
(18)

100-9991-71

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 30 1962	
FBI - RICHMOND	

3/20/62

Subject: Richmond Communist Party Meeting
3017 Forest Hill Ave.
Richmond, Va.
3/15/62

The Richmond Communist Party met tonight at the above address and on the above date at 8:30 P. M.

The following people were present:

CLARE JAMES - Chairman
LOUIS KALB
MARY KALB
EARL CHANDLER

Agenda as follows:

1. Dues and Literature
2. Educational
 - a. Peace Question
3. Mass Work
 - a. Local Work
 - b. Report on Birch Forum
4. Organizational
 - Discussion on group and its works.

Dues and Literature

As the branch treasurer was not present, no dues were collected for this meeting.

JAMES, as Literature Director, gave a report on literature funds as follows:

"Since some of you have been rather erratic about paying for your copies of Political Affairs, we are behind with our treasury, as in regards to paying a current bill for four subs to Political Affairs.

I propose to pay my year's subscription in advance, and if one of you others can do likewise we can pay up our bill for the subs to Political Affairs." This was agreeable and the KALBs also paid up their subscription in advance.

Educational

a. - The Peace Question

The group discussed the importance of the peace question and Party involvement.

LOUIS KALB stated:

"While the U.S.A. states its position on peace, they hold out for a phoney inspection, which is not acceptable to the Soviet Union and the peace forces. There must be a complete dis-armament if there is to be peace. The Soviet Union was forced to resume nuclear testing in order to catch up with the advance U. S. had made in order to be able to protect itself.

"Our own Party role must be to be more directly involved in promotion of peace here. While we've been kidding ourselves that there was not much we could do here because of the lack of peace sentiment, but there are bound to be some forces and individuals that can be worked with."

MARY KALB pointed out that, "The National Guardian had been taking a good position on the question!"

It was decided to write the Guardian and see if reprints of some of their articles on the peace question were available for distributing to organizations and individuals to promote the peace question.

The following other actions were proposed:

- A. Mailing peace literature
- B. Direct contact with liberals or others
- C. Promote youth activity around peace.
- D. Letters to editors
- E. Contact with News Letter writers on peace.
- F. All Party members subscribe to National Guardian.
- G. Use Guardian to promote discussions on peace with contacts.

- H. Have TIGGIE CHANDLER (EARL CHANDLER's son) to contact MOE SHIFF at RPI, and also, if possible to get TIGGIE to do so, to raise the question of peace with other students at RPI, EARL CHANDLER to raise these questions with his son.

In regard to above discussion and proposals, a matter was brought out that TIGGIE was Vice-Chairman of the Students National Educational Association, local chapter, and that a girl who is President of this group at RPI is the one who was supposed to have indicated that the students at RPI would like to have a Marxist speaker to give their side of the question before the students.

MARY KALB proposed that "Allen" be seen as to subsidising a Guardian subscription to some student; that TED REESE be seen in a similar matter. MARY KALB stated "LIL KAPLAN gave us our subscription to the National Guardian!"

Mass Work

- a. Local Work
- b. Birch Forum

MARY KALB reported:

"That BILL AILOR (W. H. AILOR) had called her, knowing her interest as an anti-Birch, informing her that there would be a discussion by newsmen and T. COLEMAN ANDREWS on the John Birch Society. Others were invited to join in.

"That LO and I went, and there were just a few people present, but a recording was made of the meeting, and it will be broadcast.

"LOUIS and I were able to raise two questions. One was, 'That Hitler rose in power because people thought by ignoring him he would go away, and did not do anything to stop him, and he was responsible for many million lives being taken.'

MARY KALB stated:

"JAMES, when we find out this recording is to be broadcast, we will let you know and you can use it as an entry to raise the question with BILL AILOR when you see him."

The question on Organizational in regard to Party work was tabled until the next meeting, in hopes that ARCHIE and JUANITA NESTER would be present so all could take part in the discussion.

The questions to come up for discussion and actions to be:

1. LOUIS KALB to report on a realistic plan of work and check up.
2. Local work
3. Literature
4. Finance
5. That each member be required to give a brief report at each meeting on what they had done, read, etc., as to Party activities.

- 1 - To pay subscriptions in advance to Political Affairs in order to set up bill with New Era Book & Sub.Agency.
- 2 - That following means to be taken to promote Party influence on the peace question:
 - A. Mailing peace literature
 - B. Direct Party contact with liberals and others
 - C. Promote youth activity around peace.
 - D. Letters to editors
 - E. Contact with news letter writers on peace.
 - F. That all Richmond Communist Party members subscribe to National Guardian.
 - G. Have EARL CHANDLER try to influence his son TIGGIE toward peace activity among students at RPI.

H. Use Guardian to promote discussion on peace questions with contacts.

I. Write National Guardian to see if they are publishing articles for distribution on peace question.

- 3 - To table Party organizational question until next meeting.
- 4 - To have next meeting Thursday, March 29, 1962. To discuss question of meeting place.

John Birch Society's Objectives Cited

As a member of the John Birch Society, I was naturally disappointed to read Mrs. Blunt's letter attacking it, and would like to list what I consider four major points in its favor:

(1) When you consider communism an enemy within this country, and an enemy that is greatly organized, the first step you must take is to organize your opposition. The John Birch Society has a leader, a headquarters, and a system of recruiting and functioning in almost every state in the country.

(2) Once you have established your enemy and organized your opposition, you must then acquire a thorough knowledge of what you are defending, and an equally thorough knowledge of the enemy's plan to capture it. The John Birch Society is chartered as an educational organization, and provides for each member vast material on both of these topics.

(3) The John Birch Society has an action program incorporated in a 10-point monthly agenda which is received and carried out by every member all over the country. This system of planned and concerted effort can be claimed by no other anti-Communist organization.

(4) The Communists have emphatically and repeatedly stated in all of their major periodicals from the United States to the Soviet Union, that the John Birch Society must be destroyed at all costs. No other group has been accorded this distinction. We, therefore, assume that our program is striking the mark.

For those people who feel that communism is a real threat to the United States, and that the John Birch Society is an organization worth looking into, we cordially invite you to find out more about us. The Robert Welch movie will be shown on Monday, May 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Second and Grace sts. office of the Southern Bank. Admission is free and we welcome your interest.

MRS. M. R. MILLS III
Richmond.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Date: 5/3/62

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Author:

Re:

John Birch
RH FILE: Society
BU FILE:

100-9491-72

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MAY 4 1962	
FBI - RICHMOND	

**Birch Critic Seen
'Appallingly Naive'**

The letter from Mrs. Julie C. Blunt regarding the John Birch Society (April 24), reveals appalling naivete.

Mrs. Blunt asserts that Robert Welch's "circumscribed vision" leads his "gullible" followers to refuse to face reality. For a man with "circumscribed vision" Mr. Welch sees very well indeed. Perhaps we could use a little more of his vision on the international scene. For instance, Mr. Welch in September, 1958, started telling the truth about Castro and Soviet Cuba, whereas the Associated Press did not find this out until only recently. Mr. Welch is now trying to inform the public about the true situation in France and Algeria. I wonder how long it will take the liberal newspapers of this country to tell their readers that the Communist take over of Algeria is all but complete.

As to Mrs. Blunt's fallacious reasoning that "communism can only be defeated if we first eliminate the poverty, social injustice and ignorance upon which it breeds," I'm afraid this only shows how gullible she has been to the design of the international Communist conspiracy; and there is little doubt as to the surprise it will be to the millions of enslaved peoples all over the world on whom this greatest tyranny of the ages has been imposed from above—by the "intellectual" upper classes.

Mrs. Blunt, like many of the critics of Robert Welch and the John Birch Society, would do well to examine the facts more closely before joining the popular chorus from the left.

VALERIA N. PETTLEY
Richmond.

62-0-9006B

*100-9991**

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Date: *5/8/62*

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Author:

Re:

RH FILE: *John*
BU FILE: *Birch*
Society

Index
100-9991-73

SEARCHED <i>W</i>	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>C</i>	FILED <i>C</i>
MAY 8 1962	
FBI — RICHMOND	

Never Called the HST Red Agents, He Says

After reading the vicious and brutally distorted article by Miss Inez Robb in your paper on May 8, 1962, I believe the record is urgently in need of being set straight.

I suggest that Miss Robb, or your editorial staff, show your readers when and under what circumstances the John Birch Society has ever called former President Eisenhower or former President Truman "Communists or agents of the Communist conspiracy."

The truth of the matter is that you will be unable to do so. The John Birch Society has never—I repeat, never—made such charges against either of these men.

The press continuously refers to a private, confidential letter by Robert Welch in 1956, two years before the Society was even founded. This statement, and the documentation used to support Welch's argument, have never been released publicly, and have never been intended for publication. This letter has never been made a part of the John Birch Society and its content has never been referred to in any of the official publications of the society.

As to her reference that we "only practice lynch law" and that our "doctrine is pure fascism," I can only say that it is a sad chapter in American journalism when a writer, under the guise of freedom of the press, circulates such rotten lies and thereby poisons the minds of fine Americans who accept her word as gospel truth.

GEORGE S. PETLEY
Coordinator, John Birch Society
Richmond.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Date: 5-11-62

Editor: VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Author:

Re:

RH FILE:

BU FILE:

100-9991-74

Chivers

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 11 1962	
FBI — RICHMOND	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Birch Society Refuses To Discuss Va. Firing

The John Birch Society national headquarters refused today to discuss protests made over dismissal of George Petley as state co-ordinator in Virginia.

Robert Welch, retired candy manufacturer who founded the Communist-hating right-wing organization, could not be reached for comment, but an aide in his Belmont, Mass., office said:

"Actually, we will have no comment at this moment other than 'no comment.'"

He had been asked whether Welch or his headquarters would acknowledge the protests stemming from Petley's dismissal earlier this month.

One John Birch member, H. E. Martin of Varina, confirmed Saturday that the dismissal had caused some members of the society to resign. Martin, however, has not resigned.

The notice of Petley's dismissal said he had organized too few chapters in Virginia to

justify his continuance on the John Birch payroll.

Petley, who lives in Richmond, has said that the national headquarters apparently is unaware of the difficulties of organizing chapters in Virginia.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
RICHMOND, VA.

Date: 1/28/63
Edition: Blue Streak
Author:
Editor: J. J. KILPATRICK
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: RICHMOND

100-9991-75

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JAN 31 1963
FBI — RICHMOND

Carver
WV

DIRECTOR, FBI

2/8/63

SAC, RICHMOND (100-9991) - C -

ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.
INFORMATION CONCERNING-
INTERNAL SECURITY

Imv

Re SAC Letter Number 59-13 dated 3/10/59, requesting that information concerning the activities of WELCH be brought to the attention of the Bureau.

On 1/30/63, Mr. DAN MURDAUGH, Assistant Principal, Francis C. Hammond High School, Alexandria, Virginia, made available a picture post card, the face of which carries a glossy photograph of the U. N. Building, New York City and is captioned "The House That Hiss Built". A small gummed sticker is pasted on the front of the card and written on there is "get US out". The address side of the card carries the following legend: "On December 10, 1961, the forty-six civilian doctors of Elizabethville, Katanga, sent the following telegram to UN Acting Secretary-General U Thant: 'We regret your shameful lie that your mercenaries do not shoot at Red Cross vehicles. You will have a right to talk about such things when you have spent nights with us in our hospitals bombed by your faithless and lawless ruffians'.

By all means let's give Communist China a seat in the United Nations--our seat! And since we do not want the Red Chinese coming to New York, let's ask them to move UN headquarters to Peiping or Moscow where it really belongs. Get US out! Copyright 1962 by AMERICAN OPINION Belmont 78, Massachusetts".

3-Bureau
①-Richmond
ETW/avh
(4) *avh*

SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED.....
INDEXED.....
FILED.....

100-9991-76

f

Mr. MURDAUGH stated that the seven cards received by the teachers of Hammond High School were all postmarked at Alexandria, Virginia, on January 3, 1963. The cards were sent anonymously and addressed to the following seven teachers: Miss JANE L. BRUNGARD, Mrs. NANNETTE BURLESON, Mrs. ARLENE CATE, Mrs. EVELYN CLAUSSEN, Mr. CHARLES CLOUSER, Mrs. BETH COFER, and Mr. DAVID LYNN.

The post card is being retained in the files of the Richmond Division. No further investigative action is contemplated in this matter UACB.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Steady Growth Shown By John Birch Society

By ORR KELLY
Star Staff Writer

The John Birch Society grew steadily last year, making "major advances" in its program and the scope of its activities, according to a report presented today to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

This growth came in spite of widespread attacks and in spite of a decrease in strength of other major organizations of the so-called "Radical Right," the report said.

The report was presented by Lawrence Peizer, chairman of the league's fact-finding committee, during sessions of the league's 50th annual meeting at the Sheraton-Park Hotel. Tonight, the civil rights group will honor President Kennedy at a "Dinner With the President," to be broadcast over the CBS network from the hotel from 10 to 11 p.m.

Two major claims by the right-wing organizations were upheld by the league report. The society is increasing in membership (to an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 members) and the four candidates who ran as Birchites last November showed considerable strength even though they lost, the report said.

Informative Effort

The study of the society is part of a continuing effort by the league to keep people informed about extremist groups on both the right and the left, according to Arnold Foster, general counsel and national civil rights director for the league, who was in charge of the study.

"The John Birch Society is a serious manifestation of a kind of political hysteria," Mr. Foster said, "but in my opinion it is like a kind of pimple on an otherwise healthy body—a country that is much greater, stronger and healthier than some people realize."

"We feel that this country is healthy enough so that it need not be worried when extremist

groups take full advantage of their rights to free speech and press and assembly. We don't think there should be any restriction on these freedoms."

The Birch Society apparently has established itself in all 50 States (as compared with 35 a year ago) and is showing strength in new areas, including the District of Columbia, but California is still the "banner State" with a heavy concentration of Birchites in the southern part of the State, the report said.

Cash and Staff Grow

With its increased membership, has come increase in affluence, the report said. The society is now able to spend about three quarters of a million dollars a year to support a full-time staff of 38 paid organizers and a home-office staff of about 50.

Although some of the money comes in big chunks from individual wealthy donors, Mr. Foster said, much of it apparently comes from the sale of books, a magazine, and other promotional materials and from fees (ranging from \$50 to \$250) paid to society speakers who appear before school groups and civic organizations, Mr. Foster said.

In many places, the report said, there was evidence of an attempt to change the society so as "to present a more positive image to local communities and to the American public as a whole."

Group Rule Stressed

Part of this effort, it said, was a tendency to play down the role of Robert Welch, the society's founder.

"Welch has not been completely silent," the report said, "but an effort has apparently been undertaken to convey the impression that the society is not being run by Welch alone, but by a group of sound, respectable men of substance and standing."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

C17

THE EVENING STAR
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Date: 1/31/63
Edition: Home
Author:
Editor: B. M. MC KELWAY
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: RICHMOND

100-9991-77

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 4 1963	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Tran

Can

10-11-68

[illegible][illegible]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

- 5 - Bureau
1 - WFO
2 - Richmond
(1 - 105-3531)
(1 - 100-9991)
CFH/vlr
(8)

100-9991-78

ILLEGIBLE

RE: THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATION
OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

On December 12, 1962, a source, [redacted] furnished reliable information in the form of a letter to the Editor of East Coast Post #721, Richmond, Virginia, in which he stated that he was a member of the John Birch Society, Richmond, Virginia.

b2
b7D

The 1962 Richmond Southern Directory lists George A. Martin, residing at 2704 Lanes Road, and is listed as a member of the John Birch Society.

On June 13, 1961, George Jackson Kelley contacted the Richmond Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to advise that he had resigned his position as Chairman of the Continental Can Company and had accepted as a full time basis the position as Virginia Coordinator of the John Birch Society.

The Richmond News Leader, a daily newspaper, Richmond, Virginia, on January 20, 1963, reported that George Kelley of Richmond, Virginia, had been designated as State Coordinator in Virginia of the John Birch Society. The article related that the National Headquarters of the John Birch Society had refused to discuss publicly with the Chairman of Kelley, and the article reported that R. J. Martin of Virginia, Virginia, had confirmed on January 20, 1963 that Kelley's dismissal had caused some members of the Society to resign.

The article continued that the notice of Kelley's dismissal stated he had organized two new chapters in Virginia to justify his continuance on the John Birch Society pay roll.

THIS IS LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI, AND NEITHER
IT NOR ITS CONTENTS ARE TO BE DISTRIBUTED
OUTSIDE THE AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

DIRECTOR, FBI

2/23/63

SAC, RICHMOND (105-3531) - C -

THE COMMITTEE TO WARN OF THE
ARRIVAL OF COMMUNIST MERCHANDISE
ON THE LOCAL BUSINESS SCENE,
RICHMOND, VA.
IS - II

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

For the information of the Bureau there are enclosed herewith five copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning the captioned organization.

Copy also enclosed for Washington Field Office for its information.

It is noted that this group appears to be sponsored by the John Birch Society and would follow the pattern of the Washington, D.C. Committee as set forth in an article appearing in the Washington Post, Washington, D.C., dated 11/16/62, captioned "Local Group Seeks Boycott of Goods from Red Countries". This article identified the D.C. group sponsored by the John Birch Society.

The source mentioned in the letterhead memorandum is identified as R. F. LOWERY, Assistant Superintendent's Office, U. S. Post Office, Richmond, Va., concealed due to position.

Richmond indices contain no information concerning BEATRICE H. or E. J. VELENOVSKY.

Above is being submitted for the information of the Bureau, and no investigation is being conducted by the Richmond Office.

2 - Bureau (Encl. 5)
1 - WFO (Info) (Encl. 1)
2 - Richmond
(1-105-3531)
(1-100-9991)

CRH/vlt
(5)

105-9991-79

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-9991)

DATE: 5/27/63

FROM : SA RANDOLPH E. TROW

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

On 3/18/63, Mr. KESSLER of Lafayette Pharmacies, 2369 Staples Mill Road, Richmond, telephonically advised the Richmond Office that on the previous day, a Mrs. ISAAC (VIRGINIA) BUSSELLS, whose husband is employed by Toro Yard Equipment Company and who resides at 509 Cokesbury Lane, had come into the drug store with copies of a pamphlet entitled "American Opinion" by ROBERT WELCH.

He stated that she insisted he sell Birch Society magazines at the drug store and when he refused, she walked around in the store and located some whisk brooms for sale which had been made in Hungary and some candy which had been made in Czechoslovakia.

She then asked KESSLER if he were a Communist because of the fact that he was selling these items. KESSLER advised he removed the whisk brooms and candy from the counters and she still insisted he sell the Birch Society magazines.

KESSLER related that to keep her quiet, he finally purchased six magazines but had put them in the back room and had not actually placed them on the counter for sale.

He related he was merely furnishing this information and the pamphlet, together with an alleged reprint from the Congressional Record, Second Session, 87th Congress, which item is said to be beliefs and principles of the John Birch Society and depicts an extension of remarks of the Honorable JOHN H. ROUSSELOT, Congressman from California, made on Tuesday, June 12, 1962.

RET:mfh

(1)

100-9991-80

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 27 1963	
FBI - RICHMOND	

RH 100-9991

The issue of the magazine "American Opinion" furnished by Mr. KESSLER was the January, 1963 issue. This particular copy is being maintained as the file does not reflect any other copies and it is being maintained to show the editorial staff of this magazine.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Birch Society Comment On Kennedy Recalled

BOSTON, Dec. 17 (AP).—Hubert W. Kregeloh, associate editor for American Opinion, published by Robert Welch, president of the John Birch Society, says the December issue has been withdrawn because of critical comments about John F. Kennedy.

He said yesterday the magazine article was written prior to the assassination of President Kennedy. He would not say what the comments were.

A request for comment from the Birch Society head brought only the statement "Mr. Welch is out of town."

The John Birch Society said the assassination proves the society was right in its campaign against the "internal menace" of communism. The militantly conservative society took full-page advertisements in several newspapers over the week end to express that view.

Advertisements by the society expressing the belief the President was slain in a Communist plot drew criticism from Gordon Hall, a writer on extremist groups.

Lawrence Bunker of Wellesley, a member of the Birch Society Council, denied the advertisement was an effort to attract new members but rather was to "reinforce in the public mind what happened November 22."

Mr. Hall, a Boston writer and lecturer, was quoted by the Boston Herald as saying, "In the light of the published record of the John Birch Society implying that the late President Kennedy was either pro-Communist or a Communist appeaser, I regard this ad as hypocritical."

The John Birch advertisement asked for donations from "every red-blooded American" to extend the advertising campaign.

The ad quotes former representative Martin Dies, Democrat of Texas, as saying the slain accused assassin, Lee H. Oswald, was a Communist. Oswald called himself a Marxist and the Communists have disowned him.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

B-4 THE EVENING STAR
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Date: 12-17-63

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: B.M. MC KELWAY

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: RICHMOND

☐ Being Investigated

100-9991-81

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 21 1963	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Row 9

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

TO : SAC, RICHMOND

DATE: 6/18/64

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (100-45661)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS - X

100-9991 *

By communication dated 5/26/64, Intelligence Operations Section, Frankford Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., advised that JAMES M. CURRAN, Arsenal employee, submitted voluntary information regarding the Patrick Henry Group, P. O. Box 217, Richmond 2, Va., to the effect that the group is a John Birch Society front organization. CURRAN in 5/64 had attended a neighborhood party and became involved in a conversation with two old classmates of his, JAMES LEARY and ROBERT BRUCE, 3916 Palmetto Street, Philadelphia. BRUCE displayed a membership in the John Birch Society and disclosed by his conversation that he was extremely interested in same.

CURRAN received from BRUCE a booklet in the mail several days later entitled "Is the Supreme Court Pro-Communist?" and reading the book indicated to CURRAN that the proponents of the book, the Patrick Henry Group, T. COLEMAN ANDREWS, Chairman, P. O. Box 217, Richmond 2, Va., were interested in impeaching some of the members of the Supreme Court.

The above is submitted for the information of the Richmond Office.

- 2 - Richmond
- 1 - Philadelphia (100-45661)

JRW:EMR
(3)

100-9991-82

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 20 1964	
FBI - RICHMOND	



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

RECORD OF INFORMATION FURNISHED OTHER AGENCIES

Orally _____ date _____ By Telephone 6/26/64 date _____ Written Communication _____ date _____

Information concerning:

*George S. Petley*ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Information furnished from File, Serial, and Page Number:

100-9991-7, 18, 52

Information furnished was obtained:

- ☐ during course of Bureau investigation
- ☐ from informants
- ☒ from complainants or other sources

Information furnished to:

*Frank Price, 109th INTC Group, US Army,
Richmond Va.*

Remarks:

*Re Petley's affiliation with
John Birch Society*

100-9991-83

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 1 1964	
FBI - RICHMOND	

William A. Baddy
Special Agent

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

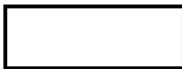
Memorandum

TO : SAC, RICHMOND (134-10A-1956)



DATE: 8/19/64

FROM : SA RANDOLPH E. TROW

SUBJECT:



b2
b7D

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Furnished	Agent	Location
 b2 b7D	7/22/64	7/22/64	RANDOLPH E. TROW	

If the information set forth in the informant's statement is prepared for dissemination, it should be carefully paraphrased so as to completely protect this highly placed source.

The text of the informant's statement is as follows:

2 - NEW YORK (REGISTERED MAIL)
(1- CP, USA)
(1- 100-79717)

③ - RICHMOND
(1- 100-801) (CP)
(1- 100-7596) (POL. ACT.)
(1- 100-9991) (BIRCH SOC.)

RET:shb
(5)

100-9991-84

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 28 1964	
FBI - RICHMOND	

"7/22/64

"Subject: Republican Convention, San Francisco, Cal./
Communist Party, U.S.A./ Nat. Committee Meeting
New York, N. Y.
7/22/64

"One of the speakers, giving a report on the Republican Convention in California stated:

"It was apparent that the BIRCHITES, had taken over the Republican convention. No opposition to GOLDWATER was allowed. The Convention was well policed by well dressed men, who is thought to be ex-F.B.I. Men. They were very efficient and if some one tried to talk, or enter that was not wanted, they threw him or her out real quick."

August 6, 1964

Gentlemen:

In accordance with a suggestion from the Committee of Christian Laymen of Woodland Hills, California, I am writing to inform you that I plan to take a subscription to the Communist paper "The Worker". I feel this could be a valuable source of information in the study of communism.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John B. Dudley, Jr.

Mrs. John B. Dudley, Jr.

1102 Essex Avenue

Richmond, 29, Va.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

100-999185
105-3513-32

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 13 1964	
FBI - RICHMOND	

105-3513-30

sent

August 12, 1964

Mrs. John B. Dudley, Jr.
1102 Essex Avenue
Richmond 29, Virginia

Dear Mrs. Dudley:

Your letter of August 6th has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

You may be sure your communication will be made a matter of permanent record in our files.

Sincerely yours,

J. E. Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

- ① - Richmond - Enclosure
1 - New York - Enclosure

Attention SACs: Based on information furnished, Mrs. Dudley is not identifiable in Bufiles.

100-9991-86
105-3513-33

SEARCHED <i>JB</i>	INDEXED <i>JB</i>
SERIALIZED <i>JB</i>	FILED <i>JB</i>
AUG 13 1964	
FBI - RICHMOND	

November 19, 1964

Mr. Joseph D. Purvis
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Richmond, Virginia

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Dear Mr. Purvis,

The John Birch Society is holding its first publicly announced meeting in the Richmond area on December 4th at 8:00 PM at the Esso Building, Hamilton and Broad Streets. As you may already know, all of our presentations are open to the public, although we have never attempted to publicize them in the past.

We'd like to take this opportunity to invite you or anyone from your office to this meeting or any others we may have in the future. We are always happy to have law enforcement agents learn the truth about the Society and keep abreast of what we are doing.

If I can help you at any time with questions concerning the John Birch Society, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John B. Dudley, Jr.

Mrs. John B. Dudley, Jr.
1102 Essex Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

105-3513-30

Mrs. & Mrs. John B. Dudley

100-9991-87

105-3513-34

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 20 1964	
FBI - RICHMOND	

SAC

att-6502

Now

*Pls. call her & say
I asked you to ask her how
her letter had been rec'd, &
thank her for her courtesy
Dec 12/1964*

DIRECTOR, FBI (04-57533)
(62-104401)

12/3/64

SAC, SALT LAKE CITY (89-313)

~~REED A. BENSON~~
Washington Representative,
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY,
Residence 3110 Valley Drive,
Alexandria, Virginia
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

100-9991-1

One extra copy of this letter is furnished the Bureau for its file on the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (Bufile 62-104401).

Reference is made to prior correspondence to the Bureau, New York and San Francisco, captioned "REED A. BENSON, 174 Alta Street, Salt Lake City, Utah, Information Concerning (Internal Security)," wherein it was stated that BENSON is the Coordinator in Utah for the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. His father is EZRA TAFT BENSON, former Secretary of Agriculture in the EISENHOWER administration and a high-ranking official of the LDS Church (Mormon). REED A. BENSON and his father are strongly anti-Communist, and oppose Socialism the same as Communism.

REED has informed this office that he subscribes to various Communist publications in order that he and his father might collect such material for reference purposes and use in combatting Communism. Some of those publications are published in New York and some in San Francisco.

REED A. BENSON is now moving to the Washington, D.C., area, where he will serve as Washington representative of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. On 12/1/64 he advised this office he would be residing at 3110 Valley Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
 - 1 - New York (RM)
 - 1 - San Francisco (RM)
 - ① - Richmond (RM)
 - 1 - Washington Field (RM)
 - 1 - Salt Lake City
- LE:FR
(3)

100-9991-88

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 7 1964	

Brown EPB
J.C. Hall jch

all RAO
addressed
EPB

for info
in file

SU 20-313

This information is furnished to the Bureau and interested offices so they will be aware of his new location and position. BENSON states he will probably have his subscriptions to Communist publications transferred from his Salt Lake City to his new Alexandria, Virginia, address. He wanted to go on record concerning receipt of any questionable material.

For the information of Richmond and Washington Field, who might have occasion to come into contact with REED A. BENSON, he is approximately 34 years of age, an intelligent and able speaker and active member of the LDS (Mormon) Church, and is quite outspoken against Communism and Socialism. He makes a large number of speeches. He and his father have always expressed great admiration for the Bureau and the work it has performed in exposing and combatting Communism. REED A. BENSON has always supported the FBI in any controversial issue that has arisen. As a representative of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY in Washington, he can be expected to be quite outspoken in making his views known opposing what he believes might be Socialistic or Communistic.

Above for record purposes.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Birchers Organize A Roanoke Chapter

A John Birch Society chapter has been formed in Roanoke. "And we hope to have many more soon," said the leader of the chapter, who asked that her name not be used in news stories.

Formation of the chapter is part of a nationwide recruitment drive by the society, which has its headquarters in Belmont, Mass.

In addition to the new chapter, the Roanoke area has several home chapter members—persons who for various reasons do not attend chapter meetings, but engage in all other society activities.

Several public presentations, at which the dangers of communism and the goals of the John Birch Society will be outlined, are planned for Roanoke. The first of such presentations was held here in January and led to the formation of the chapter. About 125 attended that meeting. The next presentation will be in March.

Nationally, the society is aiming at having on Dec. 31 twice as many chapters, twice as many home chapter members and twice as many members as it had on Dec. 31 of last year.

The society is supporting a bumper campaign to prevent repeal of 60 Section 14-b of the Taft-Hartley Act, which allows states to enact right to work laws. President Johnson earlier this year said he would work for repeal of Section 14-b. He was strongly criticized by leaders in a Virginia and other states that have right to work laws.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Roanoke World News
Roanoke, Virginia
Page 9

Date: 2/26/65
Edition: Afternoon
Author:
Editor: B.W.Morris, Jr.
Title:
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:
☐ Being Investigated RH

100-9991-90
95 95
FEB 27 1965
100-9991-90

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Birch Official Says Roanoke To Have Chapter

By MELVILLE CARICO
Times Political Writer

Between 100 and 150, many of them students and young people, attended a meeting Thursday night at Hotel Patrick Henry to introduce the controversial John Birch Society to Roanoke.

It lasted three and one-half hours and by the time membership application blanks were distributed the crowd had dwindled to between 40 and 50.

The meeting was conducted by William C. Highsmith Jr., four-state coordinator of the John Birch Society from Greenwood, S.C., who told reporters afterwards a chapter "definitely" will be organized in Roanoke.

He said the name of the "leader" may be made public later if the leader wishes. Memberships are secret. Normally meetings are held in a member's home.

Most of the time was taken with films explaining the society's anti-Communist programs including two reels recording the speech founder Robert Welch made at the organizational meeting of the society at Indianapolis, Ind., in 1958.

Highsmith, in introducing the films, said the nation must be saved from communism by Americans, as individuals, because "the country is rotten at the top."

Major objectives of the society include impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren of the U.S. Supreme Court and getting the United States out of the United Nations.

A current project is writing protest letters to a company

now sponsoring a series of TV documentaries on the United Nations.

Highsmith, who studied for the ministry, told the audience Warren would be impeached in this session of Congress if 125 members from which the society had pledged had not been defeated.

The meeting ended with a question and answer period.

Highsmith, in answer to a question, said he personally does not agree with what Welch said about ex-President Eisenhower in the society's "Blue Book."

But he asked his audience to read the book on communism for the facts on which Welch based his conclusion.

He was outspoken against the Johnson Administration, however.

"I find no variance between the 'Great Society' and the official line of the Communist Party," Highsmith said in answer to another question.

Highsmith was questioned too about the secrecy of the society.

He said it is not secret in that members cannot bring guests most of the time they do but members' names are not made public and chapters can keep anyone they wish out of a meeting.

And he said members can be ousted.

"Communists have tried to infiltrate chapters," he said.

Highsmith described the society as "pro-God, pro-American, anti-Communist" an organization with an effective action program against communism.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Roanoke Times

Roanoke, Virginia

Page 17

Date: January 29, 1965
Edition: First
Author: Melville Carico
Editor:
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
100-9991
Character: Security Matter
or
Classification: 100-
Submitting Office: Richmond

100-9991-79

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 30 1965	
FBI - RICHMOND	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (100-9991)

FROM : SAC THOMAS E. BISHOP

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

DATE: 3/19/65

as noted
This is to record that at 11:55 AM on 3/16/65, Mr. HARRY W. SELDEN, Mechanicsville, Va., telephonically contacted me and advised that he has just been appointed Co-ordinator of the John Birch Society for Virginia.

He stated he called me to advise me of this fact and to advise that he would be glad to talk to anyone from the FBI at any time should we so desire.

I thanked him for his call and told him I would make a record of it.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

TEB:mfh

(1) *[Signature]*

100-9991-91

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 19 1965	
FBI - RICHMOND	

[Signature]



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, RICHMOND (

DATE: 12/6/65

FROM : JKP SAC, ATLANTA (100-5857) (C)

SUBJECT: *um* THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING

100-9991A

CCO
Jed
Jed
On 11/23/65, SHERMAN HARRIS, Anti-deformation League, 41 Exchange Place, S.W., Atlanta, Ga., advised that an individual by the name of STEVE REVENSON, 6527 Stewart Ave., Richmond, Va., had agreed to join the John Birch Society in Richmond for the purpose of furnishing information to the Anti-deformation League. HARRIS stated that REVENSON is an insurance broker, associated with JULIUS STRAUS and Sons, Insurance Building, Richmond, Va. HARRIS advised that he would make available information furnished by REVENSON to the Bureau and that in his reports he would be referred to as (Code name)

b2
b7D

The above is for your information.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

2 - Richmond
1 - Atlanta

CEC:jec
(3)

100-9991-92

SEARCHED <i>pb</i>	INDEXED <i>pb</i>
SERIALIZED <i>pb</i>	FILED <i>pb</i>
DEC 8 1965	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Trow
(fb)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Sheriff Clark Set to Speak In Arlington

ARLINGTON — Sheriff Jim Clark of Selma, Ala., will speak on the subject, "Story of Selma," at 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Gunston Junior High School, 100 S. Lang St.

Sheriff Clark's address is the first in a series of five monthly lectures being sponsored by the American Opinion Speakers Forum.

Sheriff Clark is a graduate of Jones Law School and has served as President of the Alabama Sheriffs Association and Vice President of the National Sheriffs Association. The Forum is sponsoring Sheriff Clark in order to give residents of Metropolitan Washington the opportunity to hear his side of the controversial Selma story.

Other lecturers in the series will include: Sept. 28, Richard Carter; Oct. 19, Alan Stang; Nov. 16, W. Cleon Skousen; and Dec. 7, Duane Thorin.

Season tickets for the series of five lectures are \$5.00 each, and are available from various outlets in the metropolitan Washington area, including the Washington office of The John Birch Society. Admission at the door is \$1.50 per person. The public is cordially invited.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page ---- 2

Northern Virginia
Sun, Arlington,
Virginia

Date: August 23, 1966

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: H. J. Obermayer

John Birch Society
RM-

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Richmond

☐ Being Investigated

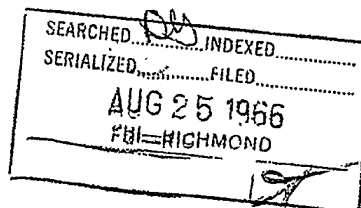
100-0-12716

65-2020-40

62-0-10194 p1

100-9991 * *I*

105-3531-5



gsh
100-9991-93

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, RICHMOND (100-9991)

DATE: 10/25/66

FROM : SA WILSON B. WADDY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING

X On 10/21/66, HARRY SELDEN, Mechanicsville, Va., an official of the John Birch Society, telephonically advised the writer that captioned organization has obtained 175 copies of a film entitled "Anarchy - USA". Also, that this film is being distributed throughout the United States for showing at public gatherings, and is to be scheduled by him in the near future to be shown to organizations in the Richmond area.

According to SELDEN, neither the John Birch Society nor any other organization is mentioned in this film by name, although it is critical of the tactics used by the UKA, CP, etc. The purpose of this film is to show how communism is successful in its revolutions.

The film consists of two reels, the first of which is the story of how communism was successful in overthrowing the governments of Algeria and Cuba. The second reel draws a parallel between the above successful revolutions and the tactics of civil rights leaders, of the klan, etc., in the United States. The film closes with an appeal to the people to support their local police.

① 100-9991
1 - 100-801
1 - 157-151
WBW:mbd
(3)

100-9991-94

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>ces</i>	FILED <i>S</i>
OCT 25 1966	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Jm



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, RICHMOND (100-9991)

DATE: 1/30/67

FROM : SA WILSON B. WADDY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING *

Re memo to SAC dated 10/25/66.

On 1/25/67, HARRY SELDEN, Mechanicsville, Virginia, an official of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, Richmond, telephonically advised the writer that the Klan in Amelia, Va., had requested of HOWARD C. ARRINGTON, Amelia Chapter of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, a copy of the film entitled, "ANARCHY - USA" to be shown at a secret Klan meeting.

Mr. SELDEN reminded that this film is being shown under the auspices of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY throughout the country. It is described in referenced memo.

Mr. SELDEN said the film would be shown at the above meeting on 2/2/67.

SELDEN also stated that this film is not being made available to the Klan as a matter of cooperation or sympathy with this organization but rather it is felt that the film may show the dangers of the Klan and thus change the thinking of some Klan members.

(3) - Richmond

✓ (2- 100-9991)
(1- 157-151) (UKA)

WBW:shb

(3) *shb*

100-9991-95

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 30 1967	
FBI - RICHMOND	

JW



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Memorandum

TO : SAC(157-2168)

DATE: 5-9-68

FROM : SA WILLIAM HENRY SIMS

SUBJECT: R. BURTON
RM- KLAN

At Approximately 9:15AM this date, a male voice identifying himself as HARRY W. SELDEN, Virginia Co-ordinator of the John Birch Society, telephonically advised the writer that at 7PM this evening, he was to meet with a man known only to SELDEN as R. BURTON, 134 North Juniper St., Highland Springs, Va., and thereafter go with BURTON to another location not disclosed to SELDEN, in order that SELDEN might give a showing of the movie "Anarchy- USA", produced by the John Birch Society. Said movie is a series of newsreel film clips showing anarchious situations in this country, with an overlay audio of a commentator describing the action. It runs for about 75 minutes.

SELDEN said that he inferred from talking with BURTON THAT HE is a member of some Klan or other hate-type group. Selden said that he has been in contact with SA Waddy in the past and merely wished to report the above.

SELDEN was advised that the FBI had no comments to make regarding the voluntary disclosures made by SELDEN by telephone, but that it would always accept any information of any kind from all citizens.

SELDEN also said that he had seen an advertisement near the Keysville, Va. Open Air Theatre that there was to be a showing of "Anarchy-USA" there on the evening of 5-11-68. SELDEN beleived that it was possible that this was being sponsored by a Klan or hate-type group, and also that the film being shown was a copy of one stolen from his car on Richmond in about 1-67, together with a projector. SELDEN said that the film is available for sale through the Birch Society, that there are about 450 copies in existence, and to his knowledge, there are only 3 copies in existence in Virginia, one of which he has.

SELDEN said that he would remain in liaison with the FBI regarding the movie rendezvous with Mr. BURTON tonight.

whs/s

cc-1-157-2168

①-100-9991

100-9991-96

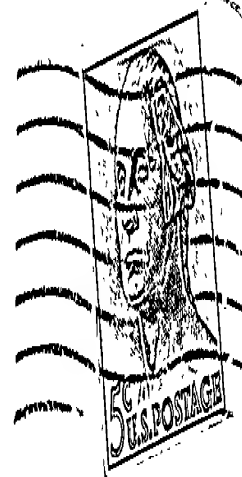
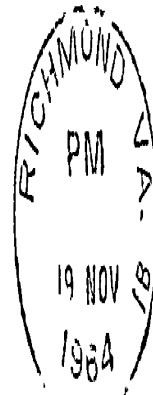
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SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 9 1968	
F.B. - RICHMOND	



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Dudley
1102 Essex Ave.
Rich. 29, Va.



Mr. Joseph D. Purvis
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Southern States Building
Richmond, Virginia

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

whs
p2
memo
157-2168

A review of the current Suburban Directory re 134 North Juniper St., Highland Springs, Va., and instant file, makes it obvious to the writer that SLEDEN's appointment with R. BURTON this evening is in reality, with RICHARD MATTHEW BURTON, Klaliff of the Unit 77, UKA, and this memo is for record purposes, in the event that either SA Hitchman or SA Waddy desire to explore further the disclosures of SELDEN.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

[Handwritten: C]
SAC, CHICAGO

[Handwritten: 1] 4/22/68

SAC, MOBILE (100-1675)

✓ *[Handwritten: 100-9991 X]*
[Handwritten: 62-0-90068]
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On 4/16/68, Mrs. HILEN LESCH, 616 Sheraton Battle House Hotel, Mobile, Ala., advised she is a private nurse for Mrs. LOUISE W. FALL, who permanently resides at the Derrington Hotel, Evanston, Ill., and is an heir to the Dunlop fortune.

She stated that Mrs. FALL's son, HORTON J. FALL, of 7100 Crescent Lane, Winnetka, Ill., and his wife, ALICE, are avid supporters of the John Birch Society, contributing both time and financial support to this society. HORTON J. FALL is presently an officer of the organization.

[Handwritten: X] LESCH stated that the daughter of HORTON J. FALL, Mrs. ROBERT ACHOR, of Halls Mill Road, Fairfax, Va., and her husband, ROBERT ACHOR, same address, and an employee of the Securities Exchange Commission, are also strong supporters of the John Birch Society. In the past, they have written several leaflets disseminating the views of the society throughout the country.

Mrs. LESCH stated that copies are generally sent to her employer, LOUISE W. FALL, and she has access to them through her employment.

She stated that HORTON J. FALL maintains a John Birch Society Bookstore in his home, and he and his wife were actively engaged in a project to impeach Chief Justice EARL WARREN several years ago.

Mrs. LESCH described the literature which she has read as containing right-wing ideas and explained that most of it pertained to criticism of the U. S. Foreign Policy and persons responsible for U. S. Foreign Policy.

2 - Chicago
② - Richmond
1 - Mobile
JRC:jcs
(5)

[Handwritten: C.C. Jones shown]

[Handwritten: 100-9991-97]

SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i>	INDEXED <i>[initials]</i>
SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
APR 25 1968	
FBI - RICHMOND	

[Handwritten: 11]

MO 100-1675

She stated that she has never known any of the above individuals to advocate violence, except toward the idea expressed by HORTON J. FALL that America would soon be confronted with a racially based civil war, and individuals should arm for this event.

The above is furnished for information.

Date received 5/13/68 Received from (name or symbol number) [redacted] b2
b7D Received by SA GEORGE LITZENBURG, JR.

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

☐ in person ☐ by telephone ☒ by mail ☐ orally ☐ recording device ☒ written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date

Dictated _____ to _____

Transcribed _____

Authenticated
by Informant _____

Date of Report

5-9-68

Date(s) of activity

5-9-68

Brief description of activity or material

Keysville picnic.

File where original is located if not attached

[redacted]

b2
b7D

Remarks:

"In the event of dissemination, information
should be paraphrased to protect source."

3 - RICHMOND

1-157-1995

~~1-157-John Birch Society~~ 100-9991

1-157-1267

INDEX TO 157-1267:

HARRY SELDEN

GL/gs
(3) *[signature]*

Block Stamp

100-9991-98

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 16 1968	
FBI - RICHMOND	

5/9/68

It has been learned that ELLIOTT BOSWELL received a phone call this morning from HARRY SELDEN, State coordinator in Virginia for the John Birch Society. SELDEN has been attempting to determine the person or persons who stole his projector and film entitled "Anarchy UKA". He told BOSWELL that this film is to be shown at the Keysville Drive-In Theater, home of the Keysville Community Club, on Saturday night, 5/11/68. BOSWELL said he would attend and try to get the number off the film to see if it was the one stolen from SELDEN.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Parade Number Grows To 2,255

Latest entrants in the George Washington Birthday Celebration Parade in Alexandria include 24 units with 528 persons, bringing the Feb. 22 parade total to 89 units and 2,255 persons.

The units include the Wheaton High School Majorette Corps from Wheaton, Md.; the John Birch Society color guard and float from Alexandria; Reese Hall Post 8757 Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard color guard, Mountville, Pa.; Boy Scout Troop 136 marching unit, Alexandria; American Red Cross chapter disaster vehicle, Alexandria; The Flames Majorettes, Alexandria; Dalelites Majorettes, Woodbridge; Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, Alexandria, with six cars; Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy color guard, drum and bugle corps and marching unit from Leonardtown, Md.

The Boy Scout Troop 120, Alexandria, marching unit; Alexandria Beautification Committee float; St. Johns High School Cadet Band, Washington, D.C.; Mount Vernon Chapter Order of DeMolay, float, Alexandria; Cheverly American Legion 108; and the Golden Raiders Sons of the American Legion color guard, Cheverly, Md.; Sons of the VFW Unit 57 color guard, Alexandria; Warwick High School Grenadier Band and Bagpipe Band, Newport News, Va.; Cub Scout Pack 600, Alexandria; Hopkins House Cub Scout Pack 575 marching unit, Alexandria; Commodore John Barry General Assembly Knights of Columbus color guard and marching units, Arlington; Groveton International Order of Job's Daughters float, Groveton, Va.; Alexandria Fire Department marching unit and band; William Mason Saunders Order of DeMolay color guard and marching units, Alexandria; and Porto Carvan 104 International Order of Alhambra unit and float, Arlington.

The parade begins at 1:30 p.m. and will proceed south on Washington Street. Parade chairman is K. W. Smith. General chairman for the 35th year of the GWBC event is Samuel B. DeVaughan. The VFW and the City of Alexandria sponsor the parade and celebration.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Alexandria
Herald
Alexandria, Va.

Date: 2/3/69

Edition:

Author:

Editor: M. C. C. Carlin

Title: John Birch Society
Alexandria, Va.

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated *NO*

100-9991-99

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 5 1969	
FBI - RICHMOND	

index



SCHOENHARDT ASSOCIATES

(703) 669-3041 / P. O. BOX 1135 / BRISTOL, VA. 24201

March 18, 1969

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Washington, D. C. 20000

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Due to a recent article I had published in our local newspaper concerning the apathy of American citizens regarding taxes, welfare, responsibility of government officials, and crime, I have been approached by the John Birch Society to become a member.

From their information pamphlet concerning their organization, they indicate that Martin Luther King was a Communist, and that his assassination was part of a Communist plot. How much truth is there to their claim? What concerns me is that if it is true, why hasn't it been exposed?

I would appreciate any information you can give me as to whether or not I would be making a mistake in joining their organization. I do not want to be ear-marked as some kind of "nut". However, I am very concerned over the increase of crime and Communism in our country.

Thank you for your cooperation in providing me with any information you may have in guiding me in making a decision as to whether or not to join the John Birch Society.

Sincerely,

Ronald Schoenhardt,
President

RS/bc

100-9991-100

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 25 1969	
FBI - RICHMOND	

"Meeting The Challenge Of Leadership"

Consultants to management, industry and the professions
Specializing in motivation and executive & leadership development

SUCCESS
MOTIVATION®
INSTITUTE
INC.

March 24, 1969

Mr. Ronald Schoenhardt
President
Schoenhardt Associates
Post Office Box 1135
Bristol, Virginia 24201

Dear Mr. Schoenhardt:

In reply to the inquiry in your letter of March 18th as to whether or not Martin Luther King was a communist, information of this nature, whether substantiated or not, cannot be released pursuant to regulations of the Department of Justice regarding all matters of a confidential nature.

With respect to your question concerning the John Birch Society, I regret I am unable to furnish the data you are seeking, and it is contrary to my policy to make the type of evaluation you desire. The FBI has not investigated the John Birch Society.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

① - Richmond - Enclosure

C
Indy Address
as noted ref.

100-9991-101

SEARCHED <i>B</i>	INDEXED <i>B</i>
SERIALIZED <i>B</i>	FILED <i>B</i>
MAR 25 1969	
FBI - RICHMOND	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : **DIRECTOR, FBI**

DATE: May 5, 1969

FROM SAC, RICHMOND

SUBJECT: **JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFO CONCERNING
(IS)**

BUFILE NO.: **62-104401**

RICHMOND FILE NO.: **100-9991**

ALEXANDRIA FILE NO.: *100-28*

Due to the opening of the Alexandria Division, the following action is being taken in the captioned matter:

(a) LOCATION OF FILE

1. () Entire file is transferred to Alexandria herewith.
2. () File transferred to Alexandria, except one copy of the following serials are retained at Richmond.

-
3. (x) File is retained at Richmond but one copy of the following serials transferred to Alexandria file.
1, 2, 6, 25, 30, 33, 46, 69, 97
-

(b) OFFICE OF ORIGIN

- () Richmond
- () Alexandria
- (x) **Bureau**

(c) STATUS RICHMOND

- () RUC
- (x) **CLOSED**
- () PENDING
- () PENDING*

(d) STATUS ALEXANDRIA

- () PENDING
- () RUC
- (x) **CLOSED**
- () PENDING*

100-9991-102
SEARCHED AP INDEXED AP
SERIALIZED AP FILED AP

MAY 5 1969

1 - Bureau (RM)

1 - Alexandria (RM)

1 - Richmond

MEL:JMP (3)

Date received 5-26-69	Received from (name or symbol number) <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></div> (PROB) b2 b7D	Received by SA HUGH JAMES MCMENAMIN
Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks) <input type="checkbox"/> in person <input type="checkbox"/> by telephone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> by mail <input type="checkbox"/> orally <input type="checkbox"/> recording device <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> written by Informant		
If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent: Date _____ Dictated _____ to _____ Transcribed _____ Authenticated by Informant _____		Date of Report 5-21-69 Date(s) of activity 5-21-69
Brief description of activity or material Regular meeting of Unit #27, Petersburg, Va.		File where original is located if not attached <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div> b2 b7D

Remarks: "In the event of dissemination information should be paraphrased to protect source."

18 - RICHMOND

INDEX to 157-1402:

1 - 157-2013 Jerry Critcher
1 - 157-2100 Buck Wall
1 - 157-2196 George Houston
1 - 157-1935 Earl Wells
1 - 157-2626 Paul Moore
1 - 157-2456 Franklin McClellan
1 - 157-2467 Norman Leblanc
1 - 157-2252 Ronnie Jenkins
1 - 157-2624 Calvin Blackburn
1 - 157-2452 John Boles
1 - 157-2391 Willie Cliborne
1 - 157-2292 Donald Edwards
1 - 157-2307 Douglas Walker
1 - 157-349 Wilbur Schrum
1 - 157-2084 Rallies
1 - 157-2012 Milton Moore
1 - 100-10680 Edward Holmes
1 - 157-NEW Bobby Wilson (Open New 157-Dead)

CLIBORNE BOSHER
JAMES MOORE
RALPH MOORE
DAN RICE
ROBERT LEWIS

HJM/cs
(18)

Burch

100-9991*
100-9991-103

Block Stamp	
SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MAY 28, 1969 FBI RICHMOND	

5-21-69

The regular meeting of Unit #27, UKA, KKKK, was held at 7:30 p.m. this date at the meeting hall near Matoaca, Va. There were 20 members present:

GERALD CRITCHER
EARL WELLS
FRANKLIN MCCLELLAN
RONNIE JENKINS
JOHN BOWLES
CLABORNE BOSHER
DOUGLAS WALKER
JAMES MOORE
ROBERT LEWIS
GEORGE HOUSTON

CHARLES WALL
PAUL MOORE
NORMAN LEBLANC
CALVIN BLACKBURN
WILLIE CLIBORNE
DONALD EDWARDS
RALPH MOORE
DAN RICE
WILBUR SCHRUM

The unit received some literature from the John Birch Society. Its topic was S.I.E.C.U.S. and sex education in the public schools.

New members that were taken in at the Province meeting were discussed. WILBUR SCHRUM had an application for membership from a BOBBY WILSON. He is 21 years of age and is employed by a linen service - could be Richmond Linen or Petersburg. Several of the members knew him so it was decided to accept him on their recommendations. His address is Rt. 5, Petersburg, Va.

No action has been taken on CHARLES EDWARDS's application for membership.

There will be a state meeting of Security Guards at the rally site at South Boston, Va. on 6-8-69 at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a rally at Danville, Va. at the klavern hall 5-25-69.

It was reported that \$88.00 was taken in at the South Boston, Va. rally.

JERRY CRITCHER reported that Mr. HOLMES of the Prince George unit had been cleared on the charges of telling lies on another klansman DONALD EDWARDS and was to be recognized by everyone as being a klansman. It was reported that he accused DONALD EDWARDS of being an agent for the FBI.

MILTON MOORE sent in \$3.00 dues. He, apparently
is laying low for some reason and plans to return later.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

10/19/69

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, WFO (157-New)

UNKNOWN NAMED SOCIETY COMPOSED OF
REPORTED MEMBERS OF THE JOHN BIRCH
SOCIETY, CHARLES CO., MARYLAND,;
RM-WHITE ELITE GROUP

Re Baltimore teletype 10/8/69.

[redacted] advised on October 9, 1969, that
telephone number 591-5240 was subscribed to by PETER H. HESMER,
10118 Spring Lake Terrace, Fairfax, Virginia. HESMER indi-
cated to be a pilot for Eastern Airlines, National Airport
since 1965.

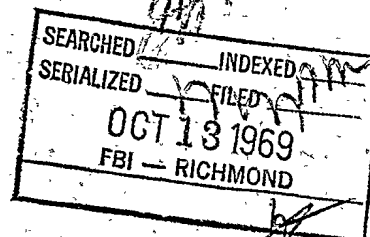
WFO files re GORDON ALBERT CLARK contained no
pertinent info not available to Baltimore.

[redacted]
WFO indices negative re WHITMEYER, HESMER, aka
HESMER, GAMES, and ESPISITO. No identifiable pertinent
info located re remainder of names set out in re teletype.

WFO is checking ATF re possible identity of gun
dealer associated with the Masket Shop, Falls Church, Virginia.

2-Bureau
2-Baltimore (RM)
2-Alexandria (RM)
2-Richmond (RM)
1-WFO

ROC:bjm
(9)



10/19/69

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, WFO (157-New)

UNKNOWN NAMED SOCIETY COMPOSED OF
REPORTED MEMBERS OF THE JOHN BIRCH
SOCIETY, CHARLES CO., MARYLAND,;
RM-WHITE HATE GROUP

Re Baltimore teletype 10/8/69.

[redacted] advised on October 9, 1969, that
telephone number 591-5248 was subscribed to by PETER M. MESMER,
10118 Spring Lake Terrace, Fairfax, Virginia. MESMER indi-
cated to be a pilot for Eastern Airlines, National Airport
since 1965.

WFO files re GORDON ALBERT CLARK contained no
pertinent info not available to Baltimore.

WFO indices negative re WHITMEYER, MESMER, aka
MESSMER, GAMES, and ESPISITO. No identifiable pertinent
info located re remainder of names set out in re teletype.

WFO is checking ATFD re possible identity of gun
dealer associated with the Market Shop, Falls Church, Virginia.

2-Bureau
2-Baltimore (RM)
2-Alexandria (RM)
2-Richmond (RM)
1-WFO

ECC:bjm
(9)

100-89991-104

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 13 1969	
FBI - RICHMOND	

b2
b7D

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

John Birch Society Defended By Reader

I read in the VOP, Sept. 17, the statement of Sherman Harris, an officer of the Jewish Anti-Defamation League, in which he was smearing the candidates of the American party, the John Birch Society, and the book "None Dare Call it Conspiracy".

He states in effect that (1) ~~the John Birch Society is a~~

~~subversive organization,~~ (2) the said society has taken over the American party, (3) it is using the book "None Dare Call it Conspiracy" for ulterior purposes, and (4) that the Birch society, the American party, and the book are anti-Semitic.

I have never been a member of the society named; but for years I have known of the reputation it enjoys as a 100 per cent patriotic American institution.

JESSE JONES.
Harrisonburg.

True

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 14

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
RICHMOND, VA.

Date: 10-7-72
Edition: MORNING
Author: JESSE JONES
Editor: JOHN E. LEARD
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Character:

or

Classification: 100-9991-105
Submitting Office: RICHMOND

☐ Being Investigated

Original sent to Bureau by R/S. 10-11-72

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 10 1972	
FBI-RICHMOND	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Robert Welch, Birchers Seen Making Comeback

By Philip Nobile

Robert Welch, the 73-year-old founder of the John Birch Society, is a most unforgettable character. After 15 years of "extremism in pursuit of liberty," he's still going strong.

Welch and his society first came to prominence in the early '60s when he called Dwight Eisenhower a "conscious articulate agent of the Communist conspiracy" in a notorious biography entitled "The Politician." Then the Birchers' brand of far right polemics became an issue in the presidential campaign of Barry Goldwater.

When loser Goldwater could no longer provide a cover of respectability, the Society began to lose ground. Its membership dropped and recruitment bogged down in a fog of bad publicity.

But now the John Birch Society appears to be back on top. They have 225 full-time employees and a bustling million dollar publishing empire. And Welch is still coming up with outlandish theories—like the one about Nelson Rockefeller's masterminding the Watergate Affair.

According to Welch, Rockefeller is one of the mysterious Insiders, a group of wealthy bankers, industrialists and politicians who are consciously conspiring to rule the world with the help of the Communists.

Q. Despite your longstanding warnings about the weakness of America's security, we haven't been taken over yet. How do you explain our good fortune?

A. We haven't been taken over? You don't think the Communists are running Washington? You don't believe what we do as a nation is in the control of the conspiracy?

For goodness sake, we've been saying so for years in print. Our scoreboard shows that the United States is 60 to 80 per cent influenced by Communism.

Q. When did the takeover begin?

A. In 1912, when the Insiders brought Woodrow Wilson in to drag us into World War I. Then there was the Federal Reserve System, which started central banking, the income tax, which is directly out of the "Communist Manifesto" and the 17th Amendment, which provides for the direct election of senators.

This last event was the first great step in the breakdown of our republic into a democracy. Previously, senators were chosen by state legislatures and then represented the states, not the people. But now you have mob rule.

Q. Things never got any better after that I suppose.

A. Actually they did. There was a terrific setback for the Insiders during Harding's return to normalcy. It was not until Franklin Roosevelt became president that the Insiders began to climb ahead again with Communist influence in our government. And that climb has been extremely accelerated under the Nixon administration.

Q. For example?

A. Every important thing Nixon has done leads toward totalitarian government. The best illustration is The Occupational Safety and Health Act. This legislation is the worst piece of tyranny ever imposed on any people by any government.

You've given thousands of inspectors the right to put anyone out of business they want to.

Q. I don't imagine you're too pleased by the fact that you've given the government the right to put anyone out of business they want to.

Original sent to Bureau by R/S 7-23-73

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE F-3

RICHMOND TIMES - DISPATCH
RICHMOND, VA.

Date: 7-22-73

Edition:

Author:

Editor: JOHN E. LEARD

Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Character:

or

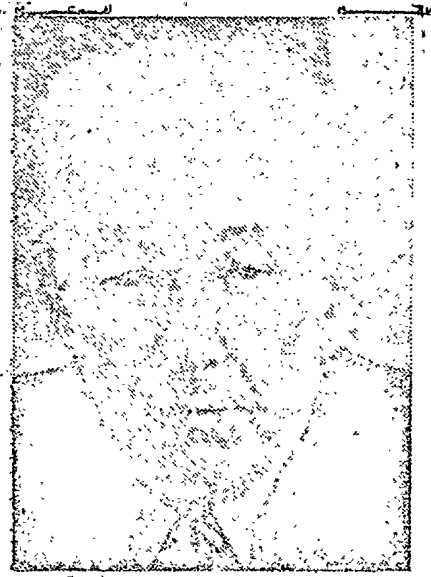
Classification: 100-9991

Submitting Office: RICHMOND

☐ Being Investigated

100-9991-106

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 22 1973	
FBI - RICHMOND	



Robert Welch

A. Gosh no. The Chinese have nothing to fight with if we want to fight them. Red China can't even feed its people.

Don't forget Mao Tse Tung and Chou En-lai murdered some 60 million of their own countrymen going back to 1924. And these are the rulers Nixon got in bed with.

Q. The Chinese leaders may be unsavory characters, but there are advantages in talking with them.

A. There's nothing in it for us. Our country is being run for the benefit of the Communists. The Vietnam War was run for their benefit too.

Q. I was surprised to learn that the society views the ecology movement and the energy crisis as Communists plots.

A. The ecology and energy scares provide for government controls that lead to totalitarianism. It's the purpose of our government to create shortages and scarcity in order to have us merge comfortably with the Communist nations. The Communists live on a philosophy of scarcity and we live on a philosophy of abundance. And we've got to change before there can be a one-world Communist government.

Q. I'd be interested to know what you think of the Watergate business.

A. My best guess is that Nelson Rockefeller planned the whole thing behind the scenes. He wants to get rid of Nixon and become president in 1976.

Q. Couldn't Rockefeller simply have waited until 1976? Nixon can't run again anyway.

A. But after Watergate Nixon's chances of moving into the presidency of the world in 1976 aren't as good. His ambition to be the first ruler of the world is the key to his support of Communist regimes.

Q. I don't understand. Who's going to elect Nixon world president?

A. He won't be elected; the United Nations will make him president. The first rulership of the world will be a revamped, strengthened United Nations. So Rockefeller had to discredit Nixon so he could become a powerful president and possibly world president himself.

Q. Who are some of the more prominent living Insiders?

A. Among the Insiders who are working toward world government ruled by the Communists are Nelson Rockefeller, Henry Ford II, Ted Kennedy and Henry Cabot Lodge. Nixon's had a hard time getting in.

(C) 1973, Universal Press Syndicate.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

John Birch Society Is Now 15

Belmont, Mass. (UPI) — Fifteen years ago this weekend, Robert Welch founded the John Birch Society. Despite attacks, controversy and the waning of the cold war atmosphere in which it began, Welch's conservative society seems to be thriving.

And it has found something even worse than communism.

From a two-day secret meeting attended by Welch and 11 other men in Indianapolis Dec. 8-9, 1958, the John Birch Society has grown into a multimillion-dollar enterprise with more than 60,000 members in 3,700 chapters across the nation.

It includes a publishing company, a chain of bookstores, a monthly magazine, hundreds of community "front" groups, a speakers' bureau and summer youth camps.

Now white-haired and 74, Welch still oversees the daily operations of the society from a spacious, wood-paneled office in a two-story brick building in this Boston suburb. An American flag hangs outside 24 hours a day, spotlighted at night.

"This takes all my time," he said. "I've worked seven days and seven nights a week for 15 years. I have no plans to retire."

Welch, who once called former President Dwight D. Eisenhower a "willing tool" of the Communist conspiracy, is as outspoken as ever.

President Nixon is out to conquer the world, he said, "that's been Richard Nixon's aim for 20 years."

But Welch believes Nixon is only a member of a larger conspiracy of powerful "insiders" in the United States and other Western nations who are determined to "make slaves of us all."

Others, he said, include Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, his brother David, president of the Chase Manhattan Bank, Henry Ford II and World Bank President Robert S. McNamara.

Killed By Reds

The John Birch Society is named after a U. S. intelligence officer killed by the Chinese Communists in 1945. Welch considered him the first casualty of the cold war.

Welch began speaking out and writing against socialism in 1945. In 1952 he wrote a biography of Birch and in 1956 quit his job as an executive in his brother's candy-making company "and decided to put my whole life into it."

When he founded the society in 1958, Welch saw communism as the chief threat to American society. He has since decided that a larger, "master" conspiracy exists — the one which allegedly includes Nixon, Kissinger and the others.

"These are the insiders of the master conspiracy," Welch said.

"Communism is only a front for this conspiracy, a tool, although the Communists are still a very important part of it. Their goal is a one-world government, an all-powerful tyranny to make slaves of us all."

The society's views are circulated in a weekly and the American Monthly magazine on sale at 400 American Opinion Bookstores across the country.

In addition, the society runs:

— Western Islands Publishing Co., which has about 20 books in print.

— A speakers' bureau which booked more than 40 appearances by right-wing speakers in 21 states and Canada.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE D-18

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
RICHMOND, VA.

Date: 12-9-73

Edition: MORNING

Author:

Editor: JOHN E. LEARD

Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Character:

or

Classification: 100-9991-107

Submitting Office: RICHMOND

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

DEC 11 1973

FBI — RICHMOND

— Hundreds of community-based committees, or "front groups" as the society calls them, to drum up support for Birch causes.

— Summer camps in five states, which attracted nearly 1,000 youths this year.

The society says its total revenue in 1971, the latest figure available, topped \$8 million.

Despite the success of the summer camps, membership has leveled off in recent years and is now between 60,000 and 100,000 (the society refuses to give an exact figure), most in the Midwest, Southern California, and Utah.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Date prepared

2/20/74

Date received

2/20/74

Received from (name or symbol number)

Received by

SA VERNON E. DANIELS

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

☐ in person ☐ by telephone ☒ by mail ☐ orally ☐ recording device ☐ written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:
Date

Date of Report

2/6/74

Dictated _____ to _____

Date(s) of activity

2/6/74

Transcribed _____

Authenticated
by Informant _____

Brief description of activity or material

Meeting of Unit 27 at Matoaca, Virginia

File where original is located if not attached

b2
b7D

INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY AN ASTERISK () ONLY ATTENDED A MEETING AND DID NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE.
VIOLENCE OR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

☐ Information recorded on a card index by _____ on date _____

Remarks:

- 1 - 157-1402 (Unit 27)
- 1 - 157-1935 (Earl Wells)
- 1 - 157-2013 (Jerry Critcher)
- 1 - 157-2100 (Buck Wall)
- 1 - 157-349 (Wilbur Schrum)
- ① - 100-9991 (John Birch Society)
- 1 - 100-11084 (Mann)
- 1 - 157-1504 (Finance)

The following are indexed to
157-1402:

DOUG WALKER
WILLIE CLIBORNE
Mr. GRIFFIN

VED:lsw

100-9991-108

Block Stamp

Searched _____ Indexed _____

Serialized hm Filed hm

FEB 20 1974

FBI - RICHMOND

Feb. 6, 1974

On Feb. 6, 1974 a meeting was held of Unit 27
K. K. K. in Matoca, Virginia. The meeting
started at 1:30 with 7 members present. The
following people were recognized: Earl Wells,
Doug Walker, Jerry Citcher, Buck Wall,
Willie Cliborne, Wilbur Schrum, Mrs. Griffin.
Min. of the meeting of 1-30-74 were read &
approved. Motion was made, 2nd and passed
to let Willie Cliborne keep up with buying the
beer and by turning in the tickets to get his
money back. There was a letter read about
a meeting of the John Burch group meeting
on Feb. 14th at Mrs. Mann house in Chester.
Money Collected: Pool Table \$3.50, Drinks \$16.00,
Money Paid Out: Lights \$4.49, Water Bill \$6.00.
Newsletter from State Office was read. After
the newsletter was read there was a lot
to discuss. It seems the State has come up
with a quick way to pay off the building.
It seems that each unit is to pay a set amount
in so many months and of course everyone knows
what unit is to pay the most. And the members
are not to happy about this. It seems they
want ^{Pross, 3} ~~to~~ to pay something like \$5,000.00.

Feb. 6, 1974

The way the members figure it for Prov. 3 to pay \$5,000.00 to the state each member would have to pay \$100.00 each. Two members Buck Wall + Jerry Critchard were heard to make the remark they wish the state luck in getting the money.

The new member was to have come in but he had another reason for not coming.

The Unit has \$316.00 net counting interest in their saving account. The meeting ended at 8:45 P.M. then the men went downstairs to drink.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-2009 BY UC 60322 LP/STP/SZ

Date prepared

2/20/74

Date received

2/20/74

Received from (name or symbol number)



b2
b7D

Received by

SA VERNON E. DANIELS

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

☐ in person

☐ by telephone

☒ by mail

☐ orally

☐ recording device

☐ written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date

Dictated

to

Transcribed

Authenticated
by Informant

Date of Report

2/14/74

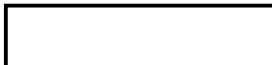
Date(s) of activity

2/13/74

Brief description of activity or material

Meeting of Unit 27 at Matoaca, Virginia

File where original is located if not attached



b2
b7D

* INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY AN ASTERISK (*) ONLY ATTENDED A MEETING AND DID NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE.
VIOLENCE OR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

☐ Information recorded on a card index by _____ on date _____

Remarks:

1 - 157-1402 (Unit 27)
1 - 157-2100 (Buck Wall)
1 - 157-1935 (Earl Wells)
1 - 157-1504 (Finance)
① - 100-9991 (John Birch Society)
1 - 100-11084 (Reggie Mann)
VED:lsw

The following are indexed to
157-1402:

PAUL MOORE
WILLIE CLIBORNE
LEWIS GRIFFIN
JAMES MOORE
DOUGLAS WALKER
CLAIBORNE BOSHER
JOHN BOLES
HAROLD PEARSON
DONNIE MITCHELL

100-9991-109

Block Stamp

Searched _____ Indexed _____

Serialized hm Filed hm

FEB 20 1974

FBI - RICHMOND

*

February 14, 1974

Local Mens Unit # 27 of the United Klans of America held their regular weekly meeting at their meeting hall near Matoaca, Virginia on February 13, 1974 at 7:30 P.M. . The following members were present: Buck Wall, Paul Moore, Earl Wells, Willie Claiborne, Lewis Griffin, James Moore, Douglas Walker and Claiborne Boshier and John Boles.

The meeting opened at 7:30 P.M. with a discussion of the meetings to be had held in Richmond, Va by the John Birch Society and also meetings to be held at the home of Reggie Mann of Chesterfield County, Virginia by the same group.

Some of the members talked about their experiences with the "PAC" Persons against crime that operates in the Petersburg area.

No treasurers report was given but it was reported that \$200.00 was being placed in the unit savings account and that would make a balance of approximately \$319.00 in the savings and that there was approximately \$200.00 to be placed in the units checking account at City Savings Bank of Colonial Heights, Va.

It was reported that Lewis Griffin attended what was to be a providence meeting in Emporia and just two or three people showed up for this meeting.

Harold Pearson and Donnie Mitchell showed up at the end of the meeting at the Petersburg unit Wednesday night.

A recruiting drive is still on but the status of the last applicant is not known at this time. It was reported that he has been giving excuses when contacted concerning joining.

It was reported that there was only nine members present at previous meeting held on February 06, 1974 and a regular meeting was not held.

Meeting ended at 8:30 P.M. .